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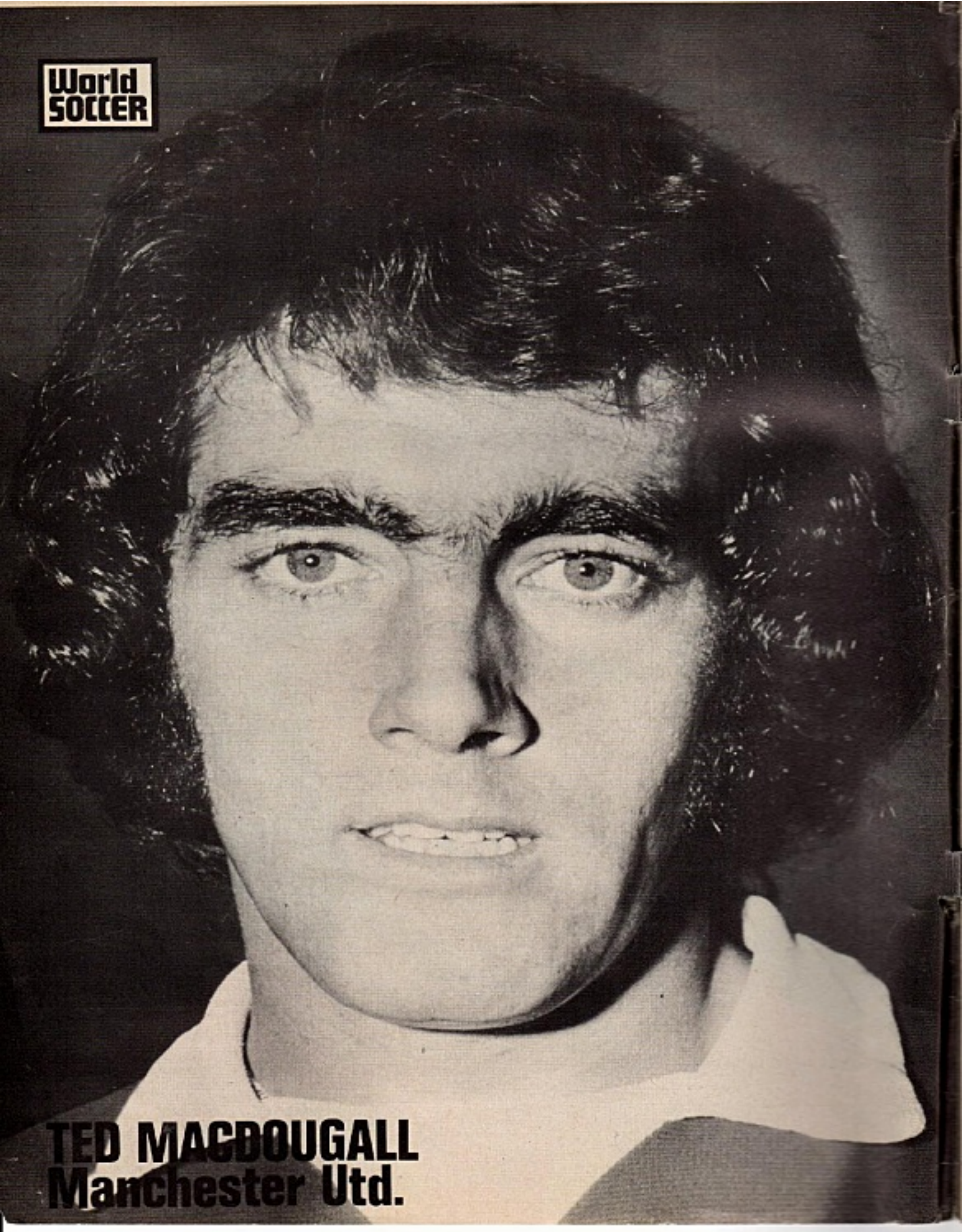
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incorporating SOCCER STAR
The INTERNATIONAL Magazine

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When will England shine in Europe?

ENGLAND'S monopoly in the UEFA Cup—and its predecessor, the Inter Cities Fairs Cup— looks like continuing this season. Both Tottenham Hotspur and Liverpool have won their way through to the quarter finals. An English club has won this particular competition for the past five years.

It is a pleasing statistic for the English. It is a pity that a similar record in either the European Cup or the Cup Winners Cup hasn't been achieved. In fact, the English have had little to celebrate since Manchester United hammered Benfica in 1968 to annex the European Cup.

The national side had an unhappy exit from the Mexico World Cup; and an inglorious elimination from the European Championship. And no English club has really looked capable of snatching the European Cup from the hands of the Dutch.

England may have the strongest league competition in the world but that doesn't necessarily produce quality club sides. Derby County must fancy their chances of winning in Europe after their fine displays against Benfica and it is in this particular tournament that England really should shine.

At Wembley this month there is a chance for British soccer fans to watch some of Europe's top stars in action. Great Britain, Eire and Denmark combine to face a side selected from the original six Common Market countries.

Let's hope that players such as Cruyff, Muller, Beckenbauer and Netzer can make the journey to London. Matches like this illustrate the class and individual technique that seems to be missing from many of the top Englishmen.

Our league championship maybe the toughest, but it isn't the best breeding ground for talented youngsters with flair and improvisation. And that's a pity.

FRONT COVER

Mike Channon of Southampton has won just a single England cap to date but seems destined to add many more in the near future. A tall, strong-running striker, with fine individual skill, Channon would command a transfer fee in the region of £250,000 should Southampton ever decide to part with their prize possession.

Sponsorship is refused in Ireland

THERE can be no justification—other than sheer incompetence, which is probably justification enough—for the decision of the Irish League officials in rejecting the Guinness sponsored Goal Star Award, which goes each year to the Irish League's top goalscorer. And, to add insult to injury, the manner of the rejection was unsavoury in the extreme.

The facts are simple, but in their recounting one can see the low state the game in Northern Ireland has reached. Two seasons ago the local Football Writers' Association arranged sponsorship from Guinness for the award, then worth £100 to the winner. Last season the Dublin drink company increased the amount to £250 on the obvious grounds that they found the exercise an outstanding success.

Publicity

The League officials—whoever they might be for the award was welcomed by club officials, supporters and players alike—decided at the start of the current season that the £250 wasn't enough, that a major company like Guinness should be screwed for more than that amount and, anyway, Guinness were getting far too much publicity for such a "small" outlay.

So in an age when local football needs all the sponsorship it can get, which was why the F.W.A. combined with Guinness in the first place, those who profess an interest in its wellbeing throw out the help offered.

Of course, £250 wasn't a large amount . . . yet it was a start and on the strength of the Goal Star returns there was every reason to suppose that Guinness would consider even greater sponsorship in the future, either for the Goal Star or for other, more broadly-based competitions.

Potential

The League, by their downright insulting attitude, have made it clear, surely, that they do not now require sponsorship of any kind. By telling Guinness that they don't want £250 are they not telling Guinness, or any other potential sponsor, that £5,000, £10,000 or whatever is also not required? If they feel able to do without £250 then, it must be assumed, they are able to do without any sponsorship at all.

The truth is, of course, that the League is totally devoid of ideas. The fact that the Guinness sponsorship was organised from outside their own ranks, and by pressmen of all people, simply struck in their craws.

And the message is clear: if any company is considering putting money into Northern Ireland soccer it won't be welcome. Or, at least, it won't be welcome unless the little men decide what the amount is to be and what the publicity ratio is.

Better keep your money in your pocket!

Larne, 33 years out of senior grade and for the past decade the kingpins of the B Division, were allowed into the Irish League to fill the vacancy left by Derry City. And the manner of their elevation had all the trappings of a Whitehall comedy . . . starring, of course, the League officials.

For 14 years, Larne had applied for senior status with monotonous regularity. And, with equal regularity, were turned down. But with Derry out and the officials undecided over the set-up of the League—

COLIN McALPIN reports on more strife and dispute for the Irish

at one stage, heaven help us, they considered operating with 11 teams, thus leaving one team out in the cold every week—it was finally, almost reluctantly, agreed that Larne, for so long spurned, should be rushed into the club. It had suddenly become necessary to have them to pull the League out of a hole.

And, almost totally unprepared for such a major move, Larne have been left to face the tough challenge of senior football with a team ill-equipped for the task and a ground not really up to standard.

Larne, to be sure, wanted up. But they did want, and had every reason to expect, the necessary period to really plan the step. Thrown in as they were at the deep end, anybody who now has the gall to suggest that the Inver Park club ought never to have had ideas above their station should be railroaded out of sight.

They, like all teams moving into a different and more demanding grade, need time. Time to get the players capable of sustaining a worthwhile challenge, time to provide adequate facilities, time to settle.

Character

George Eastham, the man with the midas touch, returned to the Irish League as manager of League Champions Glentoran, promptly announced that he needed at least half a team and then took what he had to the City Cup. He's that sort of character, and he's a welcome breath of fresh air.

With the Championship under way, Glentoran are running in fits and starts but can take some consolation from the fact that their great cross-city rivals Linfield aren't running at all. Indeed, I've seldom seen a Linfield team quite so inept.

Formidable

The opening games saw Ards move into the lead but a gaggle of clubs all pounding after them. Ballymena United, Crusaders, Cliftonville and Coleraine all seem intent on making the race the closest for years . . . and the way some of them are playing, notably the excellent young Seaview side and the always formidable Bannsiders, it very well could be.

The visit to Belfast of the New Zealand All-Blacks—a breakthrough for international sport—has prompted many soccer fans to ask the obvious question: when will top-class football return to Northern Ireland?

The answer seems, at best, a vague hint that it may never return because nobody wants to come to strife-torn Ulster. The I.F.A. claim that they are doing all in their power to speed the comeback but, in the light of the rugby success, it does seem that power is weak. A word in a few ears might just shine a light in the gloom.

PHILIP EVANS reports from ITALY

CAGLIARI STRUGGLE AT THE BOTTOM

SPORT in all its forms has always tended to attract sentimentality, and I make no excuse for starting this report at the tail and working through to the head. To see a team such as Cagliari, champions only thirty months ago, at the foot of the table is pitiful. More pitiful still is the thought that it may take a truly mighty effort to get them away and into the safe reaches of the table by next spring.

You have to start with Scopigno and his method of training. It's a simplification to say of him that he bears a reputation more for the pointed phrase and the *mot juste* than for solid, hard tactical expertise. But the remark isn't without its point. He was always accused by Italians—even those close to the game and who should have known more subtlety—of being *non serio*. Those throw-away remarks of his, his incessant refusal to worship sacred cows—these made people smile, but they also made them suspicious.

Memorable

It is a simplification, also, to say that Scopigno sat back and watched Riva do all the work. He, after all, was instrumental in the exchange deal that took Boninsegna to Inter and brought Gori, Domenghini and Poli to Sardinia in his place. And it was Gori who was really the key figure in that winning season, despite Riva's bagful of goals. It was Gori who did the selfless running, provided the hard graft, worked always as the perfect foil. It was a memorable achievement and he fully deserved the international recognition that came his way.

Albertosi was safe in those days, Cera imaginative, Niccolai capable of defensive feats that belied his *gaucherie* and Domenghini always likely to provide the occasional flash of the clear genius that could be his. But Scopigno held them together cleverly. Last week's defeat was soon forgotten, the new something to be tackled with fresh imagination and energy.

Panache

And that is the real reason, it seems to me, for Cagliari's failure this season: the inability to relax. All the arguments about Riva's loss of form, about too many generals and not enough Indians, about too many people too long in the tooth—they ignore that past in which Scopigno set a life-style for the players that would be hard for any one else to match.

Now Fabbri is a likeable and a knowledgeable man, far from being a despot; but he does not have the panache that was Scopigno's. Teams that work well not merely gain points, they also score goals, and if it is points that Cagliari need most, then the team's performance in attack still remains saddening.

In dismissing Scopigno, the club should have done the right thing and reconstructed the team. The argument against that has been the old one of lack of funds. But the Ceras, Domenghinis and Albertosis of the Italian world still command pretty fair transfer fees, and many a good youngster saw his registration change hands last summer for sums considerably less than those placed on the heads of such men.

The real hope is that the collective will begin to operate. *Il gioco non c'e*, they say, implying fragmentation. And if Scopigno is not called back, Fabbri's problem will always remain one of morale.

Thrashed

At least Cagliari have scored *some* goals. More depressing still are the records of Sampdoria and Lanerossi Vicenza, each with only three goals out of ten games. Goalless draws in Italian football have recently been as frequent as the bruises on a bunnygirl's backside, but that sort of statistic has to send shivers down many a spine.

Bologna were in a pitiful state the last time I reported and its good to see them functioning on more than one cylinder at last. They were thrashed 3-0 by Fiorentina as long as you didn't look to closely at the score details. Two own goals and a penalty. Not funny, but five points from the remaining three games in the month made Pesaola less aware of the tumbril and proved that the club had dealt wisely by grabbing Novellini during the November market.

Enough of the worries, what of the delights. And alas, nothing exciting to report. Lazio continue to lead the table with Inter only a point behind them as I write. But again, twelve goals from the one and thirteen from the other give ample proof of the fact that the Chinaglias and Boninsegnas of the world lead a taxing life. Or is it rather, that there simply aren't enough of the breed, that the ones who do exist are so exalted by default.

Respectable

Inter lost the derby by the odd goal in five after being three down and forced to watch Rivera in angelic form. And where was that but out on the wings, and few people can flight a ball so perfectly as Gianni. He did it again when Milan went to Cagliari and won by the one goal, their first away win of the season. But at least they score goals—25 in ten games, which is getting closer to the respectable.

Juventus are starting to play well and win points, with Altafini scoring vital goals in recent games. And when Altafini scores goals he makes them look like "good" ones, which fits in perfectly. A team such as Juventus, with the enormous national interest it commands, needs players of style.

Realistic

Fiorentina, Torino and Napoli trot along—all interesting, flawed teams that will spend this season winning games handsomely and losing them wretchedly. But the first two at least have managers who refuse to develop ulcers and prefer to be realistic.

As for Helenio Herrera and his interesting Roma side, last month saw hair cuts all round. Herrera always did show a penchant for the symbolist. We'll have to wait and see whether the approach of his players to the game becomes less woolly as a result.

ROGER MACDONALD'S SOCCER NOTEBOOK

ATTENDA SPREADS A

THIS month UEFA are considering what they can do to halt the alarming decline in attendances throughout the continent—no more so than in England, where up to one million spectators could be lost this season, leaving the gates at their lowest since the second World War.

Among the drastic solutions proposed is one put forward by the Standard Liege chairman Roger Petit, that the height of the crossbar, and the distance between the posts, should be increased by several inches to increase the rate of scoring. Said Monsieur Petit: "It's goals that bring in the fans, and there simply aren't enough of them."

It has also been suggested to UEFA that the penalty area should be increased almost to the touchline, and extended to midfield, to combat the physical intimidation prevalent just outside the present limits of the penalty area. Offside also figures in the proposals—that it should be restricted to the 18-yard area. Then there are a score of suggestions that additional incentives should be offered to clubs scoring prolifically: an extra point each time they score three goals, and another when they win by a margin of three or more.

But any changes in the laws of the game would require the approval of the International Board, and it is known that most of its members—including the four Home Countries of England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales—are against most of the proposals. But they will find increasing pressure from administrators at club level, who argue that the game in Europe has reached crisis point.

AUSTRIA

WITH an average attendance of around 4,000, the Austrian F.A. has fought a long battle with television, and an increasingly bitter one. After their failure to reach agreement on a figure for screening matches, Austria's national TV company deliberately put old matches on show in direct competition with League games on Sunday afternoons, with the result that crowds dwindled still further.

It is Vienna, traditionally the home of Austria's greatest clubs, that is feeling the full weight of the problem. Once the capital comfortably supported seven First Division clubs: now there are only three, and all of them will be seriously in debt before the end of the season.

The F.A. President, Dr Heinz Gerge, also feels the flood of European competitions are to blame. "After watching the best teams on television, the fans are simply not prepared to accept the standard of League football. And yet without their support, our clubs cannot afford to keep the best players at home, and the standard declines still further. It's a vicious circle."

Willie Morgan (with ball) of Manchester United, watched by Asa Hartford of West Bromwich Albion during an English league game.

BELGIUM

ATTENDANCES are expected to be down slightly over the season, although as intermediate figures are not collated, no real estimate is possible. But only the big clubs, Anderlecht and Standard Liege, are happy about their present financial position, largely because of their revenue from European matches.

Anderlecht's Secretary, Gustave de Louvien, said that if anything their season ticket holders had increased in number over the past three years. "But our problem is the same everywhere; we have to catch the floating supporter, the man who comes occasionally. If he likes what he sees, if he keeps dry and has a comfortable seat, he comes again; if he doesn't, he stays away."

The Belgian F.A., aware of the delicate balance between profit and loss, have reluctantly agreed to increased sponsorship this season. Leading clubs are now allowed to display the name of their sponsor on the front of their shirts—for example F.C. Liege, Standard's ailing neighbours, have "Goal Jacques" emblazoned on their strip—an unsubtle form of advertising worth many thousands of pounds a year.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

THE poor form of the national side—beaten in their last three matches—is blamed as a contributory factor for the continued decline in attendances. The average First Division gate dropped by a further 3,000 last year, and one of the most famous Czech internationals, Frantisek Planicka, had no doubt about the cause.

"A lack of discipline among the players, which in turn leads to poor results at international level, is the real reason. In my day the players were dedicated to their profession, and led respectable lives off the field. Now they are in poor physical shape, and cannot sustain their efforts for a full 90 minutes. It's hardly surprising that the fans stay away."

HOLLAND

EVEN Ajax, who attract crowds of 60,000 to the Amsterdam Olympic Stadium for European matches, cannot hope for an attendance of more than 20,000 for most league games—and that is by far the highest figure among Dutch clubs. In 1971 the Dutch F.A. bowed to the inevitable, abolishing the Third Division and encouraging semi-professional clubs to return to the amateur ranks. The average First Division

NCE DISEASE CROSS EUROPE

gate is expected to drop by 2,000 again this season, to 10,000, with around 7,500 watching Second Division games. But with low overheads—the average wage bill is perhaps a tenth of a club in England—and short distances to travel, most clubs still succeed in breaking even.

The Dutch F.A. Secretary, Henk Burgwal, said that his Association were encouraging clubs to spend more on amenities for the spectator. "I'm convinced this is the way to drag more people away from their firesides on Sunday afternoons," he said. "We don't feel that TV has an unfavourable influence. Those fans who content themselves with watching the recorded highlights later on Sunday evening, probably would have gone out in the family car during the afternoon in any case."

HUNGARY

THE professional game, as it is in everything but name, must be in serious danger of collapse in Hungary, where attendances this year could reach an all-time low. It is estimated that the average gate will be around 2,300 for First Division matches, compared with 6,140 last year—and that was a pitiful figure compared to the 32,000 average of the halcyon days of the fifties.

The problem is largely one of the players' attitude. As they are paid by firms and factories, for whom they do not work, rather than by clubs, for whom they do, they know that their performances on the field will not affect their pay. Hungary's international referee, Istvan Zsolt, put it succintly: "Our players are not as fit as those in England and Germany. But why should they work hard, when the rewards are the same?"

Television is also blamed for accelerating the decline, but as it is government policy to screen internationals and big games live, the Hungarian F.A. cannot seek the obvious remedy.

ITALY

IN sharp contrast to most European countries, attendances in Italy are rising—in the first eight weeks of the season, an extra 120,000 spectators had been to First Division matches. Receipts, too, are enormous—last season more than £9 million was taken at the gate, and that figure is almost certain to be beaten this year. On one Sunday in November the receipts were £333,000 from nine First Division games.

League President, Aldo Stacchi, wants to streamline the First Division competition from 18 to 16 clubs "to reduce the number of uneconomic matches." He feels the restrictions on TV are an important factor in keeping attendances on the increase. In Italy the equivalent of "Match of the Day" divides its time equally between a First and Second Division game, both of which are kept secret until the very last moment.

PORTUGAL

THERE has been a sharp rise in admission prices, between 25 and 40% depending on the club, but despite that attendances have fallen only slightly. The main reason, one suspects, is the lack of alternative entertainment in Portugal, where television is beyond the reach of most people, and the weekend trend of Mass and Football is not easily changed.

However, the Portuguese F.A. ban live television, except for selected matches played separately, and even radio has an unusual restriction; commentaries are allowed on the understanding that constant switches will be made from ground to ground, so no fan can hear a complete match broadcast.

RUSSIA

ATTENDANCES remain high, despite a reported loss of half a million in the season just ended. The average attendance at First Division games was 27,000, 3,000 down on 1971. However, in the Second Division the trend is upwards—more than 300,000 more at matches in 1972.

Moscow's clubs have suffered the most—partly because the championship has recently gone to provincial sides such as Dynamo Kiev and Zaria from Voroshilovgrad. And Moscow also has the largest number of TV sets in the Soviet Union. Although the big games in the capital are not screened live, provincial matches are frequently shown, sometimes even in direct competition—and the temptation to stay at home is hard to resist.

SPAIN

HERE crowds remain steady, despite a further rise in admission prices bringing the average cost of tickets not far short of £1—a great deal of money for the Spanish worker. Televising of matches is restricted to one game each weekend, which is normally played on a different day, or at a different time to the rest of the programme. But even this does not seem to prevent the average fan from watching his local team, then settling down in front of the TV set to watch still more football.

Real Madrid manager, Miguel Munoz, said: "Is Soccer declining in Spain? Just try driving your car through Madrid when Real are at home."

WEST GERMANY

THERE has been a substantial drop in football crowds this season, but officials are convinced that the overdose of sport administered at the Munich Olympics is the major cause, and the decline is only temporary. However, they are concerned that if investigations into cases of alleged bribery continue for much longer, the credibility of the league could be permanently damaged.

The German spectator likes his comforts, and many of them seem unwilling to watch games in old, open stadia. Eintracht Frankfurt, former European Cup finalists, have a stadium without any cover at all—and just 6,000 turned up recently for their home game with Werder Bremen, played in the rain.

In contrast Bayern Munich's gate has increased to the staggering average of 46,000 since they moved into the new Olympic Stadium, while Fortnua Dusseldorf report big increases since their new Rhein Stadion was completed.

YUGOSLAVIA

GATES continue to decline, and the mass exodus of Yugoslav players to foreign teams is given as a prime reason. Even the big clubs, like Red Star Belgrade, can attract the fans only for the big matches. They had 72,000 for their UEFA Cup-tie against Spurs, but only 13,000 for the previous league match.

Outside the capital gates are even smaller: the reigning champions, Sarajevo, had an average attendance of just 6,369 last season—and this year the average is 2,944—the sort of figure that would not be out of place at Workington on Saturday afternoons.

PRESOV SET PACE

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

ALTHOUGH Presov set off the new season at a cracking pace and Spartak Trnava faltered early through an inability to get goals, they also had the advantage of playing many more games at home where they are still unbeaten.

As they caught up with their away fixtures, however, the points began to be dropped and the tide really turned in Trnava's favour when Presov crashed 3-1 away to Skoda Plzen.

They were soundly beaten, too, with Plzen leading 3-0 when centre forward Bubenko got their consolation goal with only four minutes left.

Less than 3,000 turned out for Presov's next home match at home in a Slovak derby to Lokomotive Kosice and though previously only Spartak Trnava had succeeded in taking a point from Presov at home, the result was a 1-1 draw.

The final blow to Presov's championship hopes probably came in their next match when away to Ostrava who were bottom of the table at the time, the leaders went down 2-0 with right winger Klement scoring both goals.

Meanwhile Makatinsky's squad at Trnava, though still unable to field the same team in consecutive matches, have weathered their lean spell. Away from home they have still managed to score only seven goals in eight games (worth nine points thanks to their defence) and in particular goalkeeper Keketi but with Presov faltering Trnava have taken full advantage.

Making up a leeway of five points at one stage, Spartak Trnava are the leaders at the half way mark . . . on goal average from Presov and their only real challengers are all fellow Slovaks—Zilina and the two Kosice clubs VSS and Lokomotive.

Dukla have still not managed to get themselves out of the rut into which they fell with the eclipse of Masopust, Novak & Co. Watched by less than 1,500 they beat Nitra 2-0 but then were beaten by bottom of the table Slavia (1-0) before beating Slovan Bratislava 2-1 . . . again before a crowd of only 1,300. Slavia appear to be in serious trouble though they have still maintained contact with the other struggling clubs.

Dresden stride on

EAST GERMANY

DYNAMO Dresden, Cup and League double winners two years ago, show no signs of weakening in their current bid for the championship and with 11 games gone they remain the only unbeaten side.

After being held to a goalless draw away to newly promoted Chemie Leipzig, the Dresden squad really turned it on. In the DFV Cup they hammered FC Karl Marx Stdt 8-1 before a 14,000 crowd—Richter grabbing a hat-trick and Kreische getting two though refusing still to take penalties and Hafner succeeded from the spot.

Two years ago Kreische would have taken the kick and scored to complete a hat-trick but footballers are funny fellows and when they become disenchanted with penalties nothing will persuade them.

Kreische & Co then hammered lowly Rot Weiss Erfurt 7-2, after leading 4-0 at the break. Hans-Jurgen Kreische grabbed four against a side that though newly promoted had in their last league game beaten the champions 1st FC Magdeburg 3-0.

While the Dresden club was hammering seven, the other First Division games were producing goals galore. On the same day bottom of the table 1st FC Lokomotive Leipzig rattled up the highest tally of the season so far, beating Chemie Halls by 8-0. Matoul, the Leipzig club's new striker didn't play but Wolfram Lowe hit three and his fellow ex-cup Henning Frenzel grabbed two. Kreische now tops the scorers list with 10 goals followed by the Lokomotive Leipzig pair Matoul and Frenzel with seven each.

A rare struggle is going on at the bottom of the table and, in fact, all but the top four clubs are still involved in the relegation struggle with almost half the season completed. Five clubs share the nine point spot and only four points separates Wismut Aue (5th in the table) from Rot Weiss Erfurt who are currently bottom.

East German goalkeeper Jurgen Croy.

Stefan Ivanov of FC Beroe.

Bonev blossoms into all-rounder

THE man of the moment in Bulgaria is 1970 World Cup star Christo Bonev, until very recently regarded as a midfield general but now at 25 suddenly blossoming into the complete all-rounder scoring vitally important goals for club and country

He follows the line already laid by Dimiter Yakimov, Bulgaria's brightest star in the 1966 World Cup who, towards the twilight of his career, had one fantastic league campaign as a goalscorer and ran riot. Yakimov's skills were superb in midfield and at club level, when played further forward who proved almost unstoppable.

Slipped

Bonev's goalscoring career began last season when his club Lokomotive Plovdiv were struggling successfully against relegation and this season they are a side transformed. Though Etar (Tirnovo) and Akademik (Sofia) have had spells at the top of the table this season they have both slipped back.

So, too, have Beroe (Stara Zagora) who did so well last season who appear to be missing the touch of their former manager Mladenov who is now with the national team.

BULGARIA

His successor, Lozan Kocev, seems to lack the magic touch though he has been hampered by injury, particularly missing the goalscoring talents of centre forward Petkov for many matches.

Lokomotive Plovdiv currently lead—drawing at home with Spartak Varna (1-1) and then significantly without Bonev, being beaten 2-1 by Levski in Sofia. Then they came back to top the table agin with two consecutive 1-0 wins over Akademik (away) and Choumene (newly promoted) at home.

Both goals were scored by Bonev, who also hit two in Bulgaria's 4-0 away win over Cyprus. CSKA meanwhile have stumbled, too, suffering perhaps from a blow to their confidence after the severe mauling they took in the European Cup from Ajax.

After beating Trakia 3-1 after Dinko Dermendiev had put the Plovdiv club ahead (Marachliev 2 and Jekov), the Army team won 3-1 away to Cernomore (Varna) and beat newly promoted Pernik 3-0.

Last time out CSKA crashed 0-2 away to Beroe to leave Nobev & Co., two points clear at the top followed by the Sofia clubs, CSKA, Slavia, Levski and Akademik.

BOBEK RESIGNS

STEFAN Bobek has finally resigned his job as manager of Dinamo Zagreb and, in the care of his former assistant, Jazbicek, they somewhat fortunately beat Vojvodina by 2-1 at home. The public, however, is completely disenchanted and Division II neighbours FC Zagreb are currently getting better gates.

With a string of managers who have been successful elsewhere it now seems clear that Dinamo's real problems are within the club and its top-heavy Board of Directors or functionaries as they are known in socialist countries.

Against Vojvodina, Dinamo got a little luck when they needed it—trailing 0-1 when they were awarded a somewhat fortunate penalty that enabled them to equalise but they will not always be so fortunate.

YUGOSLAVIA

League leaders Red Star produced skills of the highest order when they visited London in the UEFA Cup but lacking finish they didn't deserve to beat Spurs. However, at home they are untouchable and convincingly beat Sloboda Tuzla 3-1 with Vojin Lararevic scoring twice.

In their next outing away to Radnicki in Nis, football was forgotten and a brawl ended in a 1-1 draw with six players booked and two sent off. Jovan Acimovic scored Red Staros goal.

Earlier Acimovic had hit a vital 25 yarder for the Yugoslav national team in the World Cup qualifying match against Greece watched by a crowd of 68,000 at the Maracana.

Partizan have joined the challengers, drawing 0-0 at Banjaluka before beating Celik 4-1 at home but with OFK Beograd are six points behind the leaders. OFK survived remarkably away to Spartak Subotica when they had goalkeeper Nebojsa Djordjevic sent off but still managed to win 2-1 and then beat Borac 1-0 at home.

Status

In each match the winning goal was scored by last season's top scorer, Slobodan Santrac. Three of the top four places are now held by Belgrade clubs but the only real challenger to Red Star's supremacy is Velez from Mostar who owe most of their new found status to centre forward Dusan Bajevic.

He scored twice in the 4-0 home win over Vardar (bottom) who toppled the champions, Zeljeznicar 4-1 in their next match.

Personal Opinion

by LESLIE VERNON

Sunday, bloody Sunday thanks to the papers!

SUNDAY, BLOODY SUNDAY! During the week, I usually glance through the football pages of the national papers, and no matter how infuriating some of the contributions are, my blood pressure remains normal. I put the inanities into the category of, "written in haste and not repented", or "sheer sensationalism for its own sake".

But on Sundays, after my brave efforts as a referee (Class 87) on the playing-fields of Hendon and District are done, and I'm told that I am an incompetent fool, obviously in the pay of the blues (or reds), and that I'd better pack it up, I usually settle down to "enjoy" the Papers.

But this humble relaxation is spoilt, not so much by the in accuracies and half-truths, but by views expressed in feature articles which are totally opposite to my own beliefs. Rather than grabbing a hot, little typewriter and sending a letter to the Editor (any editor), I will discuss here some of the statements made on just one Sunday—December 3.

Statement

Ken Jones, the *Sunday Mirror* columnist, jumps once again on his currently favourite hobby-horse, and argues that the reason for falling attendances is the "lack of muscle" in our football. He grudgingly agrees with Sir Stanley Rous's eminently sensible statement made earlier in the week as "not entirely invalid".

Rous said that football has lost its appeal because the professionals are playing it for each other and not entertaining the public. Jones, in a form of an answer to that indictment, quotes Eddie Baily, the Spurs coach, who complained: "We have been branded as villains because we accept that there is a physical side to football."

Palpable

Perhaps the most significant remark in the article is this: "The public have grown weary of attitudes which condemn the more vigorous features of sport." With respect to Ken and Eddie, this is a lot of palpable nonsense. Football is a game in which physical contact is unavoidable. It is fast, combative, and highly competitive, not only here, but on the Continent, in South America, Thailand, and the Outer Hebrides. BUT IT HAS TO BE PLAYED ACCORDING TO THE RULES!

If the public stays away because the punch-ups, the vicious tackles from behind and other eyesores have been outlawed by the referees, then one must say that the purity of the game is more important than the desires of a blood-thirsty mob. Let them watch the circus acts paraded under the disguise of wrestling, or perhaps public hanging should be re-introduced.

As for "physical contact", the Yugoslavs, Spurs' last UEFA Cup opponents, are no slouches in this department. Remember the gentle Trivic or Secularac? Ask the Derby players how polite Zeljeznicar were when they entertained them in Sarajevo? What does Martin Chivers think of the treatment handed out to him by Schwarzenbeck? Did Ajax win the European Cup by standing back when the opposition had the ball?

Coaches like Herrera, Schoen, Greenwood and Zagalo insist that their players must learn the art of winning the ball. No one in his right mind would ever want football to develop into an athletic ballet. But it saddens me that Ken Jones, whose intentions are undoubtedly highly honourable, implies this: "Bring back the dirt, otherwise the game will die."

Thank goodness he and his less scrupulous camp followers are in the minority. In the same issue of the *Sunday Mirror*, a match report throws entirely fresh light on refereeing. Talking about Clyde Best's disallowed goal, it says: "It was hardly justified, for Best had been hacked down five times in the previous two minutes. And if he did commit an offence—which I doubt—it was nowhere near as bad as those five Newcastle fouls."

Oh, I see! So if a player has been fouled previously, he should be allowed to score an illegal goal. The mind boggles, considering the possibilities this revolutionary thinking might do to football. A tit-for-tat system could be worked out. A handling offence committed by team "A" might give team "B" two free offsides. A butt in the face might result in a penalty decision at the other end for a fair tackle. Ouch!

Assigned

The *Sunday Express* must have discovered that Malcolm Macdonald has a German mother and a Brazilian grandfather. He received this accolade: "If he goes on improving, he is an absolute certainty for the Munich World Cup." Firstly, there will not be a World Cup competition in Munich. But in 1974 there will be a Final Tournament in West Germany. Only Olympic Games are assigned to cities, World Cups are staged in countries.

Up to now, only West Germany and Brazil are certs for '74, the others have to qualify. If England win their Group, there will be time enough to write about the composition of the squad.

Unsuccessful

Mike Langley, in his usually excellent *Sunday People* column, defends George Best by saying that the club has not won anything since 1968. "There is no denying that in many ways, George has let the club down, but I think it is worth recognising that they have let him down too."

Okay, Mike, but wasn't Best a member of that very same team that has been so unsuccessful? Yet the likes of Charlton, Law, Crerand and Tony Dunne have never disappeared, given-up the game.

The real reason why Best was a good boy in 1968 is that he was only a 22-year-old youngster then, and didn't have the financial security either, which now enables him to step out of line. There is no excuse for big-headed stupidity, arrogance, or bringing football in these difficult times into disrepute. Oh, those bloody Sundays!

Sepp Maier, the national goalkeeper of West Germany.

Eric Batty reflects, after a trip to West Germany...

BUNDESLIGA OFFERS MUCH IN NEW IDEAS

FLYING visits can often be misleading but, even allowing for this, there is no doubt in my mind that the West German Bundesliga offers a great deal to those progressive minds that are open to new ideas. A recent game I saw was between Borussia Monchengladbach and Wuppertal SV, the latter newly promoted and occupying third place at the time. Borussia, of course, need little introduction with Gunter Netzer, Wimmer and Heynckes their big names but this season they have been swamped by injuries. Berti Vogts, an outstanding international full back fit again and playing as the libero or ausputzer missed last season's West German triumphs through injury but had a fine game against Wuppertal, frequently going forward a la Beckenbauer.

Henning Jensen has replaced his fellow Dane, Ulrik Le Fevre, on the left wing but doesn't seem to be an improvement and was replaced by Adi Fuhrmann after an hour but overall there was a willingness to attack that was refreshing. This is not to say that defence was neglected but both teams came out with 7 or 8 men when they got possession and the result was an open, end to end display of attractive football. There were three penalties too—all rightly given by a fine referee, Mr. Eschweiler from Bonn—would that we had a few like him in England.

Colleagues

Netzer took all the free kicks for Borussia, curling them all and on one occasion bending the ball so far that he even deceived his colleagues Jupp Heynckes who went forward to meet the ball only to find it swinging away and leaving him. After many near misses, Borussia finally opened the scoring close to the break. A move started by Netzer and developed by Heynckes who went round the Wuppertal 'keeper and passed to Dietmar Danner who scored. Danner, predominantly left footed is exceptionally gifted, almost the equal of Herbert Wimmer whose deputy he is. The Borussia midfield was all craft—no question of destroyers or kickers—Shmuel Rosenthal, Netzer and Danner.

Early in the second half Heynckes hit a post and Danner was pulled down in the box to bring the first penalty. Heynckes scored with a fine hard-hit shot and five minutes later Kohle made it 2—1 again from the spot. Netzer by this time had joined Vogts at the back, though both continued to come forward and after one 50 yard run from defence Netzer was chopped to bring the third penalty. This time Danner was elected and elaborately contrived to place his left foot shot just wide.

So the score remained 2—1 for Borussia but the match never died right until the final whistle. The attendance was 20,000 with prices high by general standards, 6 DM and 8 DM for standing being the cheapest—just less than £1 and just over with half price for boys.

Apart from the football which was of high quality, there was a total absence or rowdyism on the terraces, plenty of vigorous tackling but never anything nasty or malicious and more surprises to come after the match. In the Borussia club-haus (newly built) a comfortable room, well furnished was set aside for the press and within minutes both managers appeared. After giving their opinions of the game they answered questions quite freely and with everyone satisfied they departed. Minutes later the colour television was switched on for the highlights of the West Germany v Switzerland game (5—1) and two of the day's big league games.

'...there was a total absence of rowdyism on the terraces and never any malicious or nasty tackling'

Revealing

Forty five minutes of football immediately after the game—starting at 5.45—no doubt helps to keep the fans at home, particularly when it is followed at 10 p.m. by more highlights.

A revealing incident was shown from the 1st FC Kaiserslautern—Bayern Munchen match. With one of the FCK players lying injured in the goalmouth, Sepp Maier the Bayern 'keeper threw the ball out of play so that he could receive attention. Nothing unusual about that—seen everywhere.

Sporting!

What followed was unusual and I can imagine English managers having kittens should anyone be so sporting! The game was re-started with a throw for Kaiserslautern and the ball was promptly thrown directly to Franz Beckenbauer. No mistake either . . . there were no FCK players anywhere near him.

Later I had the opportunity to ask Borussia manager Hennes Weisweiler about this incident. "Normal," was his reaction. One team sportingly throws the ball out so it is natural to reciprocate. "We see it all the time in Germany," said Weisweiler.

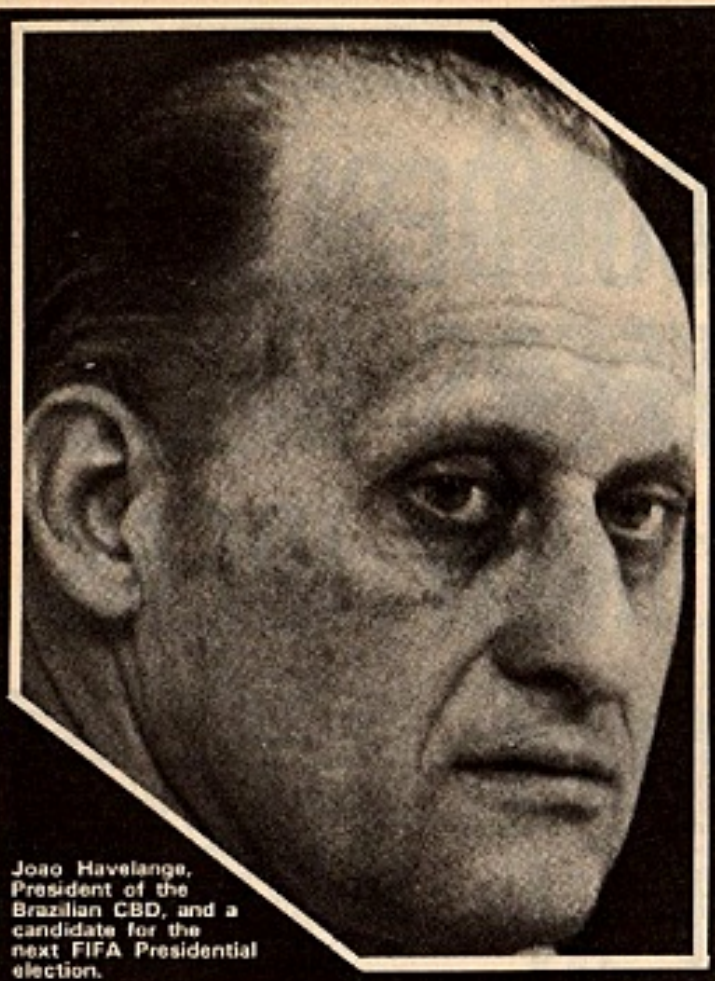
In thirty years of playing and watching England I've never seen it though it would be very welcome here. So, too, would half a dozen referees like Eschweiler.

Hans Henningsen talks to

JOAO HAVELANGE

(President of the Brazilian CBD)

Bigger penalty areas on the way?



Joao Havelange, President of the Brazilian CBD, and a candidate for the next FIFA Presidential election.

HENNINGSEN: The financial position of 90 per cent of the clubs in Europe is chaotic. The same applies in Brazil. How do you think the financial plight of so many could be avoided?

HAVELANGE: I cannot speak for the non-Brazilian clubs, because I know of their problems only through the Press and other media. And, of course, the causes of the problems are not the same in each country, football being administered in different ways.

You know how this problem is worrying me. Witness how the CBD and myself constantly co-operate with Brazilian clubs. Sometimes we pay their debts in foreign countries, sometimes lend money, We help them in any way we can. But I agree with you that the problem is not common to Brazil alone.

I think the majority of clubs throughout the world are not well organised. If you look at the balance sheet of a Brazilian club you can verify this. In these days of professional soccer, a club is like a commercial enterprise and should be run as such.

They need good accounting, proper budgets, etc. I am sure we could avoid what happens with certain Brazilian clubs. They purchase players for ridiculous prices yet don't have the money to pay their telephone or electricity bills and, sometimes, cannot even afford to pay for playing kit.

It is wrong to purchase a player thinking that he will help the club win a championship or cup and also recover the money invested. Plenty of club directors forget that a championship can only be won by one club.

Inflated

So, I think the policy of many clubs, and with some it is a tradition, that they must buy expensive players is a wrong one. This has been a cause of the market becoming inflated. Good players in Brazil cost over 400,000 US dollars, sometimes over 700,000 dollars and I hear that Direeu Lopes will cost over 1,000,000 dollars.

An unknown player can cost over 50,000 dollars and it is very difficult to get this money back. This is not the only problem clubs face. There are many more. I think those in Brazil are not the same as those in Europe, or even other South American countries.

For example, clubs in England are recognised as being very well organised but they are very different to those in Brazil. In Brazil the clubs are not concerned only with football. Some have over 60,000 members who enjoy many sports, including basketball and volley-ball. Members can play all these games for too few cruzeiros. If they were only concerned with football I think many of the problems would be solved.

HENNINGSEN: The Brazilian national championship involves 26 clubs and a system devised to help the clubs. But do you think three months is long enough to play 25 matches with so many long trips?

HAVELANGE: If your intention is to compare Brazilian soccer with European soccer, I must say this is impossible. Football in Brazil has grown through competition at regional and local level. This is not only because Brazil is more than a country, it is a continent, but because soccer was originally played only in Rio and Sao Paulo.

The distances between clubs are

WORLD SOCCER INTERVIEW

big. So, the integration of clubs into one championship was made in stages. This year we have 26 participants. This year, too, we were restricted for time because of the Independence Cup tournament. Next year we will again study format . . . number of clubs, system of competition, etc.

In certain ways we are still developing our championship. On the other hand, we have made great progress and the CBD have learned much. We have created different rules, and a new criterion . . . the winners of each match in the championship receive 60 per cent of the gate, the losers 40 per cent. In this way we eliminate defensive football.

Many countries have asked the CBD to organise their championship or to copy our methods. We accept the suggestions of all the clubs in order to organise things better and to aid the interests of the clubs.

We acquired the help of our government in paying the air-fares of the clubs. This represents a grant of between 500,000 and 1,000,000 dollars. The interest in the national championship is tremendous. If I accepted all applications to participate we would have over 100 clubs.

After the start of the national championship, many modern and wonderful stadiums were constructed. What other country has so many good stadia. This, I think, proves that our football is alive and, although we have problems, we are going to solve them.

Structure

HENNINGSEN: Will this type of national championship not damage the structure of State football and also amateur football?

HAVELANGE: On the contrary. I think the time is coming for certain changes. There exists in Brazil a false professionalism . . . 95 per cent of the clubs are professionals, yet few have the structure to be professional or to employ professional players.

Many clubs exist only in the hope of discovering another Pele, so that they can sell him to one of the big Rio or Sao Paulo clubs. This is because they practice a fictitious professionalism. The time has come to face reality and to limit the number of professional clubs, and to bring down the price of transfers.

This will be an enormous task but one I hope to finish with the co-operation of the Government.

HENNINGSEN: Are you a candidate for the FIFA Presidency?

HAVELANGE: Yes I am. I was nominated by all the South American countries and, very honoured, I accepted. I did so because I think I am going to win and because I think I can do a good job in a most delicate position.

I think more could be done to help undeveloped countries, to construct more stadia, to encourage more and more people to play football. And, most important, we must work to get more people into the stadia watching matches.

HENNINGSEN: Are you in favour of changes in the Laws?

Changes

HAVELANGE: Of course I am. I am in favour of making football more attractive, without changing the essential Laws of the game. The basic rules must stay as they are. But did not basket-ball change its Laws to bring more life into the game?

Basket-ball players are prohibited from retaining possession for too long, for more than a predetermined period. Why should football not impose similar restrictions? How many minutes are wasted in a football match? How many minutes of actual play are there?

I am also in favour of bigger penalty areas. Defenders systematically commit more and more fouls today when their goal is endangered. If these fouls resulted in a penalty kick we could avoid much of the current violence.

If you are a defender you need only one movement to take the ball off a forward. A forward needs three moves to finalise his action. Even so, defenders foul forwards to reduce the danger to their goal.

Then they form a 'wall of players' and the advantage to the offended side is reduced still further. So, I think we must study the possibilities of increasing the size of the penalty area.

I would also like to see the size of the goals increased . . . by the width of a football in all directions. This is because goalkeepers today are more agile than they were years ago. In 1932 the high jump record was approximately two metres, now it is 2.20 metres.

Generation

The modern generation is stronger, better prepared . . . professionalism has enabled the contemporary footballer to devote himself to training and fitness. I am for any changes which will improve the game and, of course, FIFA and the International Board have been studying various proposals for some time.

● Continued on page 46

Joao Havelange, with Sir Stanley Rous, President of FIFA.

News from France

by ANDRE DUCLOS

Weird results during players' strike

IT can hardly be said, at the time of writing, that we order these things better in France. The players' strike, caused when Lyon suspended those first team men who cut a Tuesday's training to attend a Union meeting, resulted in a debilitating strike and some weird results in consequence, some clubs deciding to field their junior teams, others, like Olympique Marseille, being able to put out a full side.

Relations between players and authorities, despite the innovation of the *contrat à temps*, the time limit contract, are not good. My own view remains that the time contract is a two edged sword; all very well for an established player to exploit and manipulate to his own advantage, but a very different kettle of fish when it concerns a young player, who, like Marius Trésor when he signed for nine years with Ajaccio on arrival from Guadeloupe in Corsica, may be only too eager to commit himself for far too long.

You will know that Trésor, and Salif Kaita, are now with Marseilles, whose loss of M. Leclerc as President has scarcely deterred them from their compulsive buying. How ironic, if not poetic, that Keita's very first game for them should be precisely against Saint Etienne, the club which he had just left, after a quarrel, and with whom he had played in France ever since leaving his native Mali. Now Marseille have got Carnus, Bosquier and Keita of that Saint Etienne team which, only a couple of seasons ago, was dominating French football. Who's next?

Obscene gesture

Such was Keita's joy after playing a leading part with two goals, in Marseille's success over his old club that when, after the game, during a lap of honour, he suddenly came face to face on the touchline with his hated former President, Roger Rocher, he saluted him with an obscene gesture which cost him a 3000 franc fine and his club his services for the coming match; duly lost at Bordeaux. An expensive gesture indeed.

There are those who believe that what French football needs is above all a stronger need from FFF, the Federation, not least as mediator between clubs and players' union over the vexed question of the time contract. That is why some of these critics supported the candidature, on December 16, of Fernand Sastre to the Presidency of FFF, in place of M. Jacques Georges, who has been in that office for the past four years. While not underestimating the good work done by M. Georges during his term of office, they felt that Sastre has been more intimately involved with the reforms and changes of recent years.

Castles in the air

Meanwhile, the defeat of the national team in Dublin was a hard, harsh blow, and knocked down quite a few castles in the air, cheerfully erected after France had defeated Russia in the new Parc des Princes. Now, with a trip to Moscow to come in May, who would be bold enough to predict French qualification in the World Cup; especially when one considers that there is very little hope of Serge Chiesa being there. After all, if he won't even travel to Dublin, what hope is there of getting him as far as Moscow?

Chiesa, it will be remembered, unexpectedly returned to the French international team against Russia and had a splendid game. All seemed set for the little, Lyon inside-forward to continue in Dublin; but he dug his heels in and refused to go; on the grounds that he would miss his family. Alas, there was no changing his mind. Poor Georges Boulogne.

The French team manager now rates his team's chances of qualifying, themselves dependent on a draw in Moscow, at 40%. He believes that the Russian way of playing is better suited to the French style than the Irish which was, he remarked, to say the least, *engagé*, committed. He might also have added that France didn't have Russia's luck; that of meeting an Irish team without the splendid Johnny Giles.

It has been hard and even at the top this season, with Nice setting the pace, but looking far from irresistible, even though their inside-forward from Sweden, Leif Eriksson, was voted the best player of the Autumn. A 3—0 defeat by Nancy was a sign of vulnerability. Jean Snella, their wise, experienced manager, remarked afterwards that a really good team must be able to have its off days, and still win.

Impressive games

Another foreign inside-forward who has had some impressive games this season, though far from satisfied with his own or his team's performances, is the lofty Ivica Osim, the Yugoslav whom Strasbourh unexpectedly sold last summer to Sedan; to make room for Stan Libula, who would then be suspended by the West German Federation. Osim had a superb and decisive match for Sedan at Lyon, where they won, though afterwards he observed gloomily that the Sedan team was weak and that the mere couple of goals he had so far scored this season were by no means enough.

In the meantime, Omar Pastorira, the former captain of Argentina, continues to get his regular four stars a match for Monaco in the Second Division, recently playing before a home crowd of nine hundred.

It would be pleasant to report that all is going well with Paris F.C. in their new home at the Parc des Princes, but it is not. One can discount their double figure defeat when they put out a skeleton team against Metz during the Sunday strike, but even at full strength, they have been fairing poorly and Louis Hon, the new Manager, has not brought the dynamism and the improvement which were hoped for. The Parisians are sunk at the bottom, getting crowds as low as 6,000—Paris just cannot forgive failure—and even though Israel's Moredecai Spiegler put them nearly ahead away to Sedan the home team hit back with three. Paris, moreover have their first two goalkeepers immobilised.

Belgium v. Holland.....report by ERIC BATTY

DUTCH NO THREAT TO WEST GERMANY

FOLLOWING Holland's 9—0 massacre of the Norwegians and armed with the knowledge that the Dutchmen are on a bonus of around £8,000 a man if they qualify for the 1974 World Cup, the Belgium-Holland clash at Antwerp looked like the game of the season. Certainly it was one not to be missed, though on reflection I wish I had.

In pre-match discussions with Belgian and French journalists it was agreed that the match had all the makings of a spectacular festival though we knew, as did everyone else in Belgium, that team manager Raymond Goethals was a very worried man.

For myself, I had reservations and voiced them. Goethals would play it hard and very tight indeed at the back and everything depended on the Dutch. How would their Czech-born manager Frantisek Fadrhonc approach the game? and, equally important, would the Ajax stars put themselves about?

As things turned out we were all right. The Belgiums played as expected but with considerably more dedication and, determination than expected and it was the exalted Dutchmen who let the game die. With Holland clearly prepared to settle for a draw the result was an anti-climax—a spectacular disaster.

Incensed

If anything, the Belgians deserved to win and came very close to scoring in the second half when Jean Thissen moved upfield to smash a left foot shot against the angle of post and bar. A goal then might have forced Cruyff & Co. to turn it on and make a real game of it, but I suspect that by then the game was past saving.

The Dutch were incensed by some of the Belgian tackling which was at times a bit much—but girl's stuff compared with what we see from Leeds and Liverpool in England—but the biggest culprit was Johan Neeskens of Ajax. He was in fact booked almost at the end but I would have liked to have seen him sent off long before.

It was a strange game in many ways with the Belgians very keen and in the second half when they had gathered some measure of confidence willing to attack. Jean Dockx and Wilfried Van Moer from midfield both had commendable efforts thwarted as did right back Georges Heylens (two good shots charged down) and even the *libero*, Nico Dewalque, moved up. Unfortunately, though willing enough they did not know *how* to attack while the Dutchmen apparently didn't want to.

Thus, most of the game was idled away in a midfield battle and not once in the entire ninety minutes did anyone manage to create a clear-cut scoring chance. Though defences were generally on top, both goalkeepers, Jan Van Beveren and Christian Piot, did everything they were called upon to do. Piot produced the save of the match when Piet Keizer took a corner on Holland's right and getting a header back, volleyed the ball across goal where Willy Brokamp got up well with his head. Diving backwards to the far corner, Piot produced a reflex save that enabled him to knock the ball up and over the bar to safety.

> **'Not once in the entire ninety minutes did anyone create a chance'**

Van Beveren also did well though most of the shots aimed at his goal were from such long range that he coped comfortably. Van Himst, with several good efforts, Semmeling and Dockx went closest to beating him but significantly he didn't even move when Thissen's shot rebounded from the woodwork. This was preceded by a good move involving Van Himst, Semmeling, Devrindt and Van Moer.

Around that time in the second half the Belgians had the Dutchmen in some difficulty though due more to pressure than innovation. Van Himst, Thissen and Devrindt engineered a through ball for Dockx but the final pass was too heavy and the ball ran out for a goal kick. Then Semmeling and Van Moer combined well to put Devrindt away but the Dutch had played him offside.

Dockx also started another move that might have brought a goal—setting up an attack that saw the ball flow from Semmeling to Van Himst and back to the winger whose cross flew across goal with Dockx who had started it off, sprinting upfield and producing a diving header that just failed to make clean contact.

Late in the second half Goethals sent on Jan Verheyen as a substitute for Van Moer. No doubt this was pre-arranged, awaiting only a signal from the little inside right that he was tiring but Verheyen significantly was a midfield player too. What Belgium desperately needed was a striker.

Spirited

Unfortunately for Belgium, Raoul Lambert was unfit though Goethals could, had he wished, produced Jacques Teugels of Racing-White had he wanted to be adventurous and I prefer to think that a spirited draw was considered better than a narrow defeat.

Certainly Goethals looked well pleased at the end and the Dutch players appeared contented enough, too. Their road to Munich is still open and ominously their goals figures are such that when the return game is played in Rotterdam next season, another 0—0 draw should be enough to see Nederland in the final stages.

Tragically the only loser here was football and remarkably few of the 65,000 present appeared to recognise it. After the match the only people I could find that agreed it was a wash-out were two Frenchmen, François Thebaud and Frederic Chevit. Summing up, it is clear that the Dutch can do much better than this—and they will need to if they are to show up well in 1974. But on this evidence Cruyff and Keizer are no match for Netzer and Muller and the Dutch will not trouble West Germany.

Ill-chosen words from those who should know better

"AN absurd proposal," sneered the CORRIERE DELLO SPORT of Rome, "and it's a candidacy to the UEFA Presidency who made it!" Thus did the Rome sports daily dismiss the recent suggestion of the Secretary of the Football Association, Mr. Denis Follows, that fans under eighteen should be excluded from professional games, on the terraces. It was rather amusing, merely days later, to watch a confused television debate on the subject, in which one football reporter accused Mr. Follows of putting forward the idea as an election gambit! If such were his intentions, and I doubt it, then they have certainly been disappointed. In Italy, where the election takes place in March, the money seems to be on the shrewd President of the Italian Federation, dott. Artemio Franchi.

Mr. Follows himself, on the platform and, metaphorically, in the shooting gallery in that programme, hinted that he had made the suggestion simply to concentrate attention on the problem. Perhaps. Certainly it was not a proposal which for a moment deserved serious consideration; indeed, it was particularly ill judged in that it would tend if anything to exacerbate rather than solve the difficulty.

We are all well enough aware by now—Mr. Follows, surely, among us—that violence at football matches represents, in effect, the revenge of the D-stream, the underprivileged in a supposedly affluent society. Why it should afflict us to the extent it does in England and so very little in say, Italy, do not ask me. Violence at Italian matches tends historically to be something confined to—if that is the verb—invasions of the field, sieges of the dressing-room. I neither defend nor prefer such behaviour, but it is a fact that terrace fighting as a way of life is not the phenomenon it is in our country; even if there were some arrests and a good deal of violence at the recent Roma-Lazio derby.

But to attack the under 18s, to treat them as if they were some kind of sub-species, is precisely to endorse their own dangerous view of themselves as underprivileged, outcasts, the rejects of an oppressive, hypocritical society which has categorised them and condemned them before they have had a decent chance to develop.

Burgeons

If Mr. Follows' plan were implemented, we no doubt should indeed see a considerable decrease in violence on the terraces, for it seems to be something which burgeons when the blood is hot, the limbs are young, the fires of adolescence are burning. We should also, however, effectively kill the professional game, as many people have already pointed out. As it is, I believe Mr. Follows has most unfortunately emphasised a generation gap, a Them and Us polarity. What, now, must thousands of under 18s think of those who control our football?

Statements from Mr. Alan Hardaker have, meanwhile, been predictable authoritarian, emphasing discipline and order. These, as has so often been said before, are not remedies in any true sense of the word. When I spoke to the Liverpool Supporters' Club a few years ago, while making a ONE PAIR OF EYES television film, I said that the short term answer was better police work, but in the long run, better schools, better teaching, better homes, more interesting and less soulless jobs, were the answer.

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LOOKING AT SOCCER • BRIAN GLANVILLE

Perhaps Mr. Follows and Mr. Hardaker should be made to sit through Peter Terson's splendid ZIGGER ZAGGER a few times, on the next occasion that it is put on by the admirable National Youth Theatre. There is no better text on the subject, no better, more vigorous, illustration of how the rebellious young despise their repressive elders. Come to think of it, has Peter Terson been writing Mr. Follows' speeches?

Concentrate

Mr. Jimmy Hill and Mr. Brian Moore, I understand, have been exhorting the Press, from the television screen, to be nice about football, to stop "knocking" it and to concentrate on the more positive aspects in this, its hour of need. My response to this adjuration is the loudest possible raspberry.

One of the things I have always liked and been proud of in football is the general readiness not to sweep dirt under the carpet in the way that the minor sport of Rugby does. Rugby, a minor sport posing, in fact, as a major one, has always tried to enlist its correspondent as collaborators, propagandists, and shamefully many of them have been glad to oblige. This season, with the viciousness of the New Zealand tourists often well matched by that of their opponents, we have again had the opportunity to see how nauseatingly the truth about Rugby football tends to be obscured.

Sportsmanship

While we are forever being told how ruthless and brutal soccer is—as indeed it often is—the Rugby commentators and correspondents tend by and large to promote an image of good, clean sportsmanship, of honest hard knocks given and accepted in a manly manner.

Fortunately, soccer has long since won its battle in this country with Rugby, has closed at last that social fissure which opened in the 1800s when certain Scotsmen playing for Lancashire teams began mysteriously to find money in their boots.

Brian Moore, a television commentator.

Moore and Hill should be ashamed of themselves. I, for one, who surely love the game as much as they, will go on attacking what I consider to be its failings and its weaknesses wherever I find them. Only thus will those weaknesses be removed, and will we be able to build a sound and healthy game.

Resentment

I am reminded of the summer I spent in New York in 1967, writing a weekly column each Sunday for the *NEW YORK TIMES* on the burgeoning professional soccer leagues. Much of what I said was negative. Such clubs as Freddie Goodwin's New York Generals, uneasy amalgams of South American has-beens and British never-wases, seemed to me to be playing dull, inferior football which could not possibly draw crowds.

There was much resentment; those putting money into American soccer could not understand how and why I could criticise them. I remember the loud voiced President of the Generals—whose company's promise to stay behind them for three years lasted but one—upbraiding me in the dressing-rooms at Yankee Stadium, manifestly hurt.

But a journalist's duty—even a Rugby journalist's—is not to those who rule or finance his sport, but to the truth, his readers and his newspaper; or magazine.

Healthy

If soccer were in a really healthy state, all the newspaper, or television, criticism in the world would not begin to hurt it. Indeed, television itself, with its exposure, may be doing it more harm than anything else; any other single factor. Could it be an uneasy conscience which moved my friends Moore and Hill, amiable but mistaken men, to attack the Press? Could it have been that well known, Freudian phenomenon of projection?

Howe faces crisis at WBA

Report by BRIAN MARSHALL

A QUICK glance at the English first division table will vividly indicate why Don Howe of West Bromwich Albion must be one of the most worried managers in the game. The famous Midland club have struggled to find a winning side all this season and the storm flags are flying at the Hawthorns.

Howe, who joined his old club from Arsenal where he had made his mark as the Londoners' chief coach in their famous double year, has quickly discovered that there is a tremendous difference between the two teams.

Whereas Arsenal were on a crest of a wave Albion were struggling to maintain their previous record.

Sadly Howe has, as yet, been unable to spark off a major revival in their playing fortunes and of late the attendances have slumped alarmingly at the Hawthorns. They have also had the doubtful distinction of attracting the worst attendances at Manchester City, Crystal Palace, Chelsea and Norwich City this season.

Barometer

This barometer of public opinion is a guide to any club. So what has gone wrong?

A few weeks ago I saw them defeat Stoke City 2—1 at home with Tony Brown scoring the winner from the penalty spot. An on the spot reflection was that it was the poorest Albion side I had seen over the past two decades of watching the Midland club in action.

Frankly there was no personality in the side to lift the team and I had the impression that they were sinking into the small town club image that has been reflected in such places as Burnley and Huddersfield.

Of course, this impression could change over-night if Albion were to string together a string of good wins. But at the present time Albion are at such a low ebb that very few of the players are playing with any real confidence.

Operation

Howe has been foiled in his bid to rebuild on several occasions. The enforced absence of Jeff Astle has not exactly helped his cause. In fact, the former England striker has only played in a handful of first team games for Howe. Currently he is recovering from his second cartilage operation.

At the start of the season Albion lost their reliable goalkeeper, John Osborne, who decided to quit the game and go into business.

These kind of set-backs have accumulated into a situation whereby Howe has struggled to find a match winning combination.

He has not been helped by the lack of good publicity about Albion. This is a situation they have manufactured themselves because of a mis-guided attitude that they can survive and progress without a certain kind of publicity. The outcome is that they are getting less and less space in newspapers and magazines.

An example was their pre-match write-up in the local morning paper before the Stoke match. They attracted the great sum of five lines. Little wonder the match resulted in their lowest home attendance of the season.

The accumulation of these facts combine to produce the situation in which Albion find themselves today.

It is not a very happy position and is all the more disturbing when one remembers the great games seen at the Hawthorns over the years. Some of the best games in my soccer watching career have been at Albion so it is with great regret that the Midland club have hit such a poor patch.

The attacking flair has been destroyed to such an extent that the team struggles to make an impression.

The reason here is that since Howe's arrival they have attempted to tighten up at the rear. This tactic, however, has created a void between defence and attack—a problem Howe has been unable to solve.

It's a predicament common with many teams but it is particularly sad in the case of Don Howe because he has strived so hard to produce the goods for Albion.

Materialised

It was at the Hawthorns that Howe spent most of his playing career and it's natural that he wanted to make an immediate impression. This has not materialised and he is honest enough to admit that he faces a long upward struggle.

Howe, however, expressed a warning when he took over that this kind of situation could easily develop.

He has been proved correct on this occasion but he derives little satisfaction from "I told you so."

There is an obvious need for new blood in the side and in the present situation Albion will have to dig deep into their coffers to find the money required for established name players.

In this precarious situation, when Albion could easily nose-dive into the Second Division, Howe cannot afford to buy cheaply. He has to show some adventure.

If this policy is developed it's possible that Albion will fight their way out of trouble.

In any case, there is always the F.A. Cup. Albion invariably do well in this competition and it's possible that some Cup success would rub off in the league and provide the launching pad for a late winning run in the League.

By this time Jeff Astle should be back in action and an in-form Astle could inject the missing sparkle into the team. Manager Don Howe certainly hopes so.

Colin Suggett of West Bromwich Albion.

TODD BAN SHOULD GO

by PHILIP RISING

THE two-year ban on the international careers of Colin Todd (Derby County) and Alan Hudson (Chelsea) should be scrapped without further delay by the Football Association. They have illustrated to these two youngsters—and the football world as a whole—that they have the power to impose considerable punishment on those who infringe their laws.

The Football Association have made their point. Todd and Hudson were banned after refusing to go on last summer's England Under 23 tour. But, surely the time is ripe for the FA to make a Xmas gesture and give Sir Alf Ramsey the chance of including this duo in his plans for the 1974 World Cup finals.

The loss of Todd, in particular, is something England can ill-afford with the current paucity of genuine talent. Hudson is a useful midfield player but, as yet has done little to suggest that he will be better than those currently in the England squad.

Illustrious

Todd, I think, should already be an established England player. And, before anyone accuses me of wishing to bring the illustrious career of one Robert Moore to a premature halt, let me add that there is no reason why Todd and Moore shouldn't line up in the same side.

Todd has class. He reads the game brilliantly, tackles well, and distributes the ball accurately and intelligently. When Derby went to West Ham and won (2—1) Todd was superb. But, so too was Moore, who produced some vintage long passing. The two could complement each other.

Incentive

As it is, Todd is being left out in the cold and Moore's contribution to the England side is not as great as it might be. There is no guarantee that Sir Alf would pick Todd even if the FA were to show a bit of Xmas spirit—his mind works in strange ways. But, at least Todd—and Hudson—would have the extra incentive of striving to make the national side . . . and that can only be to the good of England and Sir Alf.

Stan Anderson, manager of Middlesbrough, was recently quoted as saying: "The game is becoming ridiculous. Players are even frightened to tackle. Players must make physical contact. There must be a little needle in the game.

"I forecast at the beginning of the season that we would have testimonial type soccer. It is now looking that way."

Mr. Anderson was distressed after seven players had been booked in his club's match against Swindon.

Encounter

Apparently his fears of "no physical contact" haven't reached such places as Manchester, Leeds and Liverpool. The most recent Manchester derby between City and United produced a distasteful encounter, full of "physical contact" and precious little skill.

The League Cup replay between Leeds and Liverpool had more than enough bruising tackling, kicking and other unsavoury aspects of the game. On the evidence of these two matches, the Football League referees are in danger of losing their grip on football.

I don't agree with Mr. Anderson. Nobody wants to see physical contact eliminated from football in England—as long as it is fair. Players have no reason to feel afraid of tackling—providing they do it fairly.

Attendances

And it is a lack of skill on the pitches that is more of a contributory cause to falling attendances than a lack of crunch.

The Football Association's decision to end 'shamateurism' with effect from 1974-5 is a welcome one. No longer will footballers be classified as professionals or amateurs . . . they will all simply be players.

Under-the-counter payments have been part and parcel of the amateur game for many years. Now the hypocrisy of the system has been given the death sentence. And football in England will be the better for it.

Not that all illegal payments will necessarily stop. Some may attempt to evade Income Tax but at least that is the problem of the Inland Revenue and not the FA.

Denis Follows, secretary of the Football Association since Sir Stanley Rous was appointed President of FIFA, is one of the candidates for the position of President of UEFA. The others are Sandor Barcs (Hungary), Artemio Franchi (Italy) and Josef Coler (Holland). An appointment will be made at the UEFA Congress in Rome on March 15.

Mr. Follows, of course, has been in the news for another reason of late with his article in the FA News. Mr. Follows suggested that violence at football matches could be curbed by banning all 18-year-olds from the terraces. He wrote:

Admission

"Could we not try as an experiment for a time, to see how it works, to refuse admission to the terraces of anyone under the age of 18? And if that is going too far cannot the 'management reserve the right of admission' to the trouble-makers? There is a hard-core of chanting, foul-mouthed hooligans at many grounds, wellknown to the authorities, or clearly definable. Don't let them enter any ground. Football is better without them."

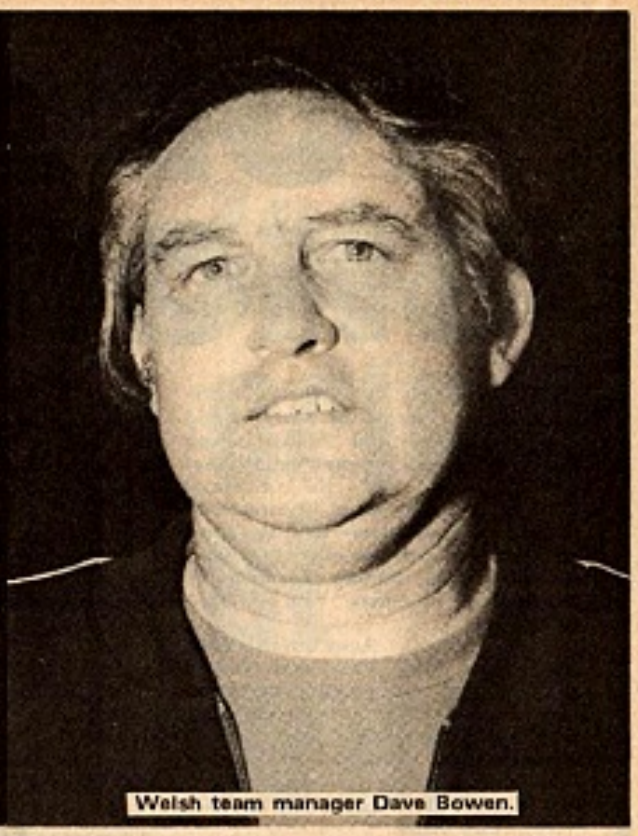
Violence on the terraces must be stamped out, but the banning of under 18-year-olds is not the answer. I'm sure Mr. Follows, should he win the UEFA Presidency—and therefore leave Lancaster Gate—would rather be remembered for his efforts to stamp out shamamateurism than his latest, ill-conceived, proposal.

How many truly world class players are there currently available for the England team? If one believed everything one reads in the national press, the number would be high. And there are very many more on the way up through the ranks.

I'm not convinced, however. When the so-called cream of English football are compared with artists such as Beckenbauer, Muller, Cruyff, Netzer, Pele, Jairzinho, Dzajic, etc., they don't rate so highly.

What do you think? Write and let me know the English players you think can be classified as world class.

Sad state of poverty exists in the valleys just now



Welsh team manager Dave Bowen.

News from Wales by PETER JACKSON

IT is indeed a sad comment on the poverty of South Wales football that the sole source of encouragement comes from Newport County's consistency which took them, all too briefly, to within touching distance of the Fourth Division leaders.

It would be much too pessimistic to leave it at that. Cardiff City's gradual recovery from an unbelievably bad beginning and the prospect of Harry Gregg sweeping a new broom at Swansea suggest that both will turn the tide.

Amid such an obvious depression, the game in Wales clamours for the inspiration of stirring deeds from its national team.

Ballyhoo

Instead, defeat by England in the World Cup at Cardiff and by their Under 23's at Swansea a fortnight later, illustrated all too clearly that the gap between the English and Welsh at international level is such a chasm as to make young men wonder whether they will ever see Wales beat England again.

Despite the ballyhoo of what Leighton James would do to England, Wales flopped to a defeat which left critics and public alike demanding something much better at Wembley in the return game later this month.

The long-suffering Welsh public has clearly little incentive to spend their money watching the national team. In six matches stretching back over the last 15 months, Wales have failed to score although, as their excellent centre half Mike England points out: "We haven't given away many either."

England goalkeeper Gary Sprake and Stoke's ebullient midfield player John Mahoney were the only players to emerge from the Ninian Park flop with any credit.

What can be taken for granted is that there will be at least two changes for Wembley. John Roberts, absent at Cardiff only because of injury, will replace skipper Terry Hennessey in the middle of the back four. And Terry Yorath will be given room in midfield at the expense of Cardiff's Leighton Phillips.

Reservoir

It is also highly probable that team manager Dave Bowen will dip into his Third Division reservoir for two Bristol Rovers players—Phil Roberts and Wayne Jones.

Roberts has pushed himself to the head of the queue for the right back position held for almost eight years by Peter Rodrigues, against whom there is now a considerable question mark following the England game.

Jones, one of the most creative players outside the top two Divisions, would almost certainly have played at Ninian Park in November had he not damaged a knee seven days before the game.

The Welsh need for midfield flair is greater than ever and, what's more, Bowen will be severely tempted to change the formation of his front three.

At Cardiff two months ago he relied on two central strikers, John Toshack and Wyn Davies, plus James, an old-fashioned winger whose articulate skills appear to have been reserved for Burnley's promotion cause.

Striker

With nothing in the wide world to lose, Bowen will consider the use of only one central striker and two wingers—James and the 22-year-old Brighton player Peter O'Sullivan.

Rejected by Manchester United, O'Sullivan impressed Welsh selectors with his enthusiasm against England during the Under 23 game at Swansea.

If Bowen opts for two orthodox wingers, he has to dispense with either Davies or Toshack. A case could be made out to retain or omit either but Toshack, if only because of Liverpool's winning habit, would probably win the vote.

For Wales now to have any hope of reaching the finals of the World Cup they have little alternative but to go to Wembley and win to provide compensation for their Ninian Park defeat.

It would be an optimist, indeed, to put money on Wales achieving in England what they failed to do in their own backyard. Hope, as they say, springs eternal.

DOZSA LEAD IN HUNGARY

by LESLIE VERNON

AND NOW the good news! Ujpest Dozsa have been playing consistently well and have taken over the lead in Hungary. This slice of information might not be received with shrills of delight by the supporters of the other clubs, but the emergence of a class team is a must for the country's football.

Dozsa collected only four points out of the first 10 available, but after a shock defeat at Zalaegerszeg, they received an infusion of confidence in Glasgow, and their League performances improved drastically. Since then, in eight matches they have picked up 15 points — seven victories and one draw. The sequence was: v. Komlo (h) 4-1, v. Szeged (a) 1-0, v. Ferencvaros (h) 2-0, v. Tatabanya (h) 3-1, v. Csepel (a) 0-0, v. Salgotarjan (h) 4-0, v. Diosgyor (a) 4-0, v. Pecs (h) 5-1.

Evidence

Of the 23 goals scored during this magnificent run, perhaps the most important was a Bene special against arch-enemy Ferencvaros. This traditional derby, watched by a miserly 12,000, was the best match of the season so far, and on the evidence of the play, could have gone either way.

Fradi, the visitors, played open, attacking football, and only a brilliant Szentmihalyi save from Ku prevented them from taking the lead. But Dozsa were the better side in the first half, and the 0-0 score-line didn't do them justice.

Clearance

Paradoxically, the green-and-whites took command in the second period, and that was when they conceded the goals without being able to reply. In the 67th minute, A. Horvath, the Ferencvaros deputy centre-back for the injured Pancsis, misheaded a clearance and Antal Dunai pushed a shrewd pass through to Bene, who squeezed the ball home between the diving Geczi and the near-post. Bene also played a major part in the second goal scored by Fazekas in the 80th minute.

It was an excellent game, full of inventive forward-play and exciting goal-mouth incidents. In the 5-1 victory over the struggling Pecs, the stocky, balding Bene got a hat-trick, Fazekas and Horvath one each.

As Ferencvaros dropped a point against MTK in the same round, this high-scoring win was important because superior goal difference pushed Dozsa to the top of the table. Ferencvaros have been fighting a continuous battle against injuries, and the absence of key defenders has cost them several points.

Lethargy

Albert, who nowadays rarely plays up to his still immense potential, shook himself out of the customary lethargy and scored three times against Diosgyor.

His first goal was his 250th in League football—easily the best total amongst the current crop of players.

Vasas, a youngish side, need time to mature under Lajos Baroti

These two clubs have drawn away from the rest of the field, and the championship race should develop into a two-horse affair. Not so much a lack of talent but rather inconsistency robbed Honved and Vasas of the chance to keep up with the leaders. The army-team, for instance, beat Komlo 7-0 (Kozma hat-trick) one week, and a few days later lost 2-1 at Szeged.

Consistent

Vasas, a youngish side, need time to mature under the expert tuition of master coach Lajos Baroti. They were beaten by Videoton 3-0, but defeated Honved 2-1, with Dr Puskas an ex-international, hitting consistent form at last. Both promoted teams have been doing extremely well, averaging a point per match. Zalaegerszeg, first time in the premier division in the club's history, have a wonderful following. They regularly draw a 20,000 crowd to their cramped little ground, and several thousand banner-waving fans follow them to away fixtures.

Szeged, after a quiet start, gained confidence and beat MTK away from home, and Honved, in consecutive matches.

Of the other provincial clubs, Raba, Videoton and Tatabanya are fighting for a medal-winning position on the table, but the others are in deep trouble in the relegation zone. Salgotarjan, Komlo, Pecs and Diosgyor are propping-up the table and they must work very hard during the long winter break if they are to avoid the dreaded drop.

During the last weeks of the autumn campaign, a couple of minor international triumphs brightened the overall picture. Tatabanya beat Bologna 3-0 in the Mitropa Cup and lead their group with maximum points after two matches. As Bologna drew with Dynamo Zagreb earlier, the Hungarian miners' team is in a very strong position and seems a sure bet for the Final.

Acrobatic

Originally, when the Italians heard that Tatabanya would be the Magyar representatives in this once prestigious competition, they protested, saying that the cup needs big names to regain its former prominence. Now they have sent a reserves-studded squad to face the Hungarians, giving stars like Bulgarelli and Savoldi a day off.

The 10,000 paying customers felt cheated when the teams were announced, but their annoyance turned to joy as Takacs (2) and Gorocs slammed the ball past the acrobatic Adani in the Bologna goal.

The Hungarian Under-23 team took a small revenge for the Olympic Games debacle, by beating Poland Under-23 4-1. In a tremendous first half Bartos, (Csepel), and two MTK players, Kiss (2) and Becsei got the goals, and all the boys did extremely well, giving fresh hope to the future of the national team.

Hungary: Meszaros, Torok, Harsanyi, Horvath, Vepi, Komiati, M. Varga, A. Toth, Bartos, Kiss, Becsei.

The Press unanimously praised the performance of this young team, but they also asked for a sustained effort, because: "Forty-five minutes of brilliance won't bring the crowds back." I wonder whether on this occasion this postscript was really necessary. Must they always temper their enthusiasm with caution? In my view, unstinting praise when it is deserved could do a power of good for the players' confidence, and benefit the Hungarian game.

Sunderland's search for a manager ends...

Stokoe moves into hot seat

by ERIC THORNTON

BOB STOKOE now has his feet firmly set under that old managerial desk in Sunderland's main stand, and is busily planning a new future for one of soccer's most famous clubs.

Whether the immediate years ahead will be an improvement on some of the dark ones there have been since they were shot out of the top circle for a second time nearly three years ago, is in the lap of the Gods.

But at least the advent of this disciplinary and rather dour six-footer will ensure that Roker loses its cobwebs, and maybe also some of those ancient boardroom photographs in dull gold frames, particularly the uninspiring mementoes dating back almost to the year dot.

Proclaimed

It was sad watching the Wearsiders make their first descent in 1958, and have to order a new design for the match programme, because for years the cover had always proudly proclaimed to every purchaser that the club had never been out of the First Division.

It didn't look as if they ever would leave that hallowed echelon until their luck ran right out in 1958. That was the winter of their great discontent. For the team was clobbered for 41 goals in a mere nine away games.

The fans were absolutely staggered as Burnley took six off them, Wolves five, Leicester four, Everton, Arsenal, Preston and West Bromwich three apiece, while Blackpool and Luton shared 14!

Reliable

It was all so very difficult to understand because, after all, the pay roll of those days included such normally reliable performers as Jack Hedley, George Aitken, Charley Hurley, Colin Grainger, Ambrose Fogarty, Don Kitchenbrand, and Don Revie.

Reorganising, the club moved back within six years, yet apparently failed to learn the lesson of watchfulness, and, after tempting fate, took the big drop once more, sharing the mourning crepe on that occasion with Sheffield Wednesday.

The board had hoped that Alan Brown might provide the answer to the next problems, but it didn't turn out that way. So then Sunderland handed an urgent brief to Stokoe, who wisely made no dramatic promises.

He knew success in Newcastle's great cup-fighting era of the fifties, and especially in the Novocastrians' 1955 triumph over Manchester City, when he marshalled from centre-half a team which embraced Ronnie Simpson, Jimmy Scoular, Tom Casey, Jackie Milburn, Bobby Mitchell, and dear old George Hannah.

But those days of glamour vanished in the mists of time on moving to Bury in a swap transfer, and this man who loves the north-east then savoured the life of the strugglers as boss first at Gigg Lane, and then at Charlton, Rochdale, Carlisle, and Blackpool.

Atmosphere

Now among the mining and shipping fraternities once again, this remark epitomises the man: "Back here I know I'm where there is atmosphere if the playing side is right, and that's what I've been searching for as a manager, because I knew it as a player, and have always longed for it ever since."

At 42, Stokoe's the right age for a demanding job. At the end of eleven years of managing, he's accumulated just the necessary experience of that side of the fence. And now, at a club with tremendous potential, the way's wide open to the top.

The fans will be with him. No doubt about that. For every new manager kindles fresh hope for Sunderland's soccer crazy supporters, who are hungry for headline stuff again at Roker.

Incentive

Stokoe has always known that, as you'll gather when he says: "The north-east's widespread feeling for soccer is the incentive I had for going back."

He gave Carlisle a new image. He rebuilt hard-up Blackpool. Will he succeed at Sunderland, where even my old friend ex-England skipper George Hardwick was unable to satisfy? I would say the odds are slightly in Bob's favour.

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FOUR MORE FOR GERD!

West German newsletter from ARTHUR ROTMIL

THE whole of Europe is raving once again over the German national side. The European champions picked up where they left off in June, when they crushed Switzerland 5—1 in a friendly at Düsseldorf. Even the long five-month break had no effect on their rhythm or team work. The same eleven which defeated Russia by 3—0 in Brussels to claim Europe's crown, took the field and performed just like a club side who are regularly in action. The match received scant mention in Britain, mainly because on the same night England, Wales and Scotland were involved in World Cup qualifying ties. But throughout the Continent this latest German display has drawn every superlative in the book.

The general opinion is, that if the World Cup was staged now, this German team would surely triumph. On the form exhibited at Düsseldorf, it is difficult to see any side in the world who at present would stand a chance against this efficient, well oiled, but by no means heartless "machine". Once again Germany's executioner-in-chief was Gerd Müller, who scored four goals, using alternately either foot and with his head! He has now hit the staggering total of 55 goals in 42 internationals. And only four days before the match, Müller also grabbed four in Bayern's 7—2 League triumph over Hanover!

Equalled

It was the fourth international in which Müller has scored four goals. His first quartet came on April 8, 1967, in Germany's 6—0 win against Albania. On May 21, 1969, Müller equalled this feat in the 12—0 thrashing of Cyprus, and he hit another four last May, in a 4—1 triumph over Russia. The most interesting feature of Müller's record is, that he has achieved more goals in away games(!), namely 28—out of the total of 55—despite hitting each of his "foursomes" in home internationals!

But even the great Gerd has a lot of shooting to do, before he can catch up with the individual German scoring record. This is still comfortably held by Gottfried Fuchs, who scored 10 (ten!) goals against Russia in the Olympic tournament in 1912, in Stockholm. Next best feat was by the Viennese-born Willi Hahnemann, who (after the annexation of Austria), scored six goals at Leipzig, in Germany's 13—0 victory over Finland in 1940.

But today, in an era of massed defences, systems and uncompromising approach, Müller's goal scoring exploits are unrivalled in the world. As I write, Müller has already slammed 52 goals this season! This is divided into 21 goals in League Cup-ties and pre-season friendlies, 17 in League matches, 10 in European Cup games, and now four in the season's first international!

Enthralled

In Düsseldorf, Müller was one of many stars in a superb German team. The capacity 70,387 crowd in the new Rhein-Stadion, specially built for the World Cup 1974, sat enthralled and burst time and again into rapturous applause at the magnificent patterns weaved by Netzer and Beckenbauer, at the craft and guile of Hoeness, the dribbling skills of Kremers, the unbelievable running power of Wimmer, or upfield sorties of the best attacking full back in Europe, Breitner.

At times it appeared that the Germans had more than just eleven players on the field and they were finding each other with uncanny accuracy. No wonder FIFA-President Sir Stanley Rous said afterwards: "This team can only be compared with the Brazilians at their best." And incredibly, such world class stars as Overath, Vogts, Grabowski and Held were sitting on the reserve bench! Vogts, after 14 months out of the side following a cartilage operation, came on for Wimmer at half time.

Newcomer

In the 68th minute Manager Helmut Schön produced from his box of tricks a total newcomer to international football: Local boy Rainer Geye, 23 (Fortuna Düsseldorf). Remember this name, you will be hearing a lot about this exciting forward in the immediate future.

Gerd Müller.

Schön, of course, was delighted: "It was a worthy occasion to field the same team as that which won the European Championship. I am very pleased with this performance and hope to be able to launch the same side in the 1974 World Cup. It is simply marvellous to have such high class players in reserve, ready to step instantly into this well organised squad."

Indeed, the Germans have other talent up their sleeve as well. Only a day earlier, their B-team defeated the Swiss equivalent by 3—1 in Winterthur. Köppel, in midfield, who scored twice, Kapellmann a revelation as a raiding full back, plus Hitzfeld (from the Swiss champions FC Basel), were outstanding, together with defenders Cullmann and Helmut Kremers, the twin-brother of the A-team member Erwin.

They are all knocking on the door of the national squad, where the competition for places has never been fiercer. It is doubtful whether any country today can boast of such a wealth of talent as Germany. Their elite is clearly superior to any national team, but behind them stand first class players capable and ready to fill any breach.

In the *Bundesliga* championship, Bayern Munich continue to set the pace and fill the grounds—their own in the Olympic stadium as well as on "visiting days". An amazing decision was taken by the famous Kaiserslautern club, who switched their home match v. Bayern to the Südwest-Stadion in Ludwigshafen, because their ground can only hold 32,000 at present. The gamble paid off, with a crowd of 60,000(!) and Kaiserslautern won 3—1!

JOHN SPARROW reports from Holland

Dutch excuses after poor draw...

ACCORDING to Frantisek Fadrhonc it was a fight for the boterham (literally translated, a fight for the bread.) The Dutch team boss was making his excuses after Hollands 0—0 draw with Belgium in the World Cup preliminary in Antwerp. The scoreline meant the Dutch were well on the road to Munich but Fadrhonc was confessing not celebrating, well aware his critics were boiling the hot water for him back home.

What he was saying was that the end justified the means, the dull, killing chess game the Dutch team had served up was justified by its reward. Having revelled in the enthusiasm for Holland's annihilation of Norway a few weeks previously, he had ordered his men to go out and force a draw.

The quiet spoken champion of attacking football had for once abandoned his golden principle, as he openly confessed: "For this once I chose the result." Of course he was merely doing what he's paid to do; his damnedest to see those orange shirts put the national side back on the map in Munich. And we should recall that disgusting episode of a year ago when the Koninklijke Nederlandse Voetbalbond kicked his future around in public for several months before graciously announcing he was capable of tackling the job.

But the question must be asked. How far is any man entitled to go? What price the fan who crosses the border for Europe's keenest derby, forking out £5 and £6 for a ticket? Isn't it the spectator this game of soccer is meant for? (Pause for laughter.)

Debate raged

Back home the debate raged. Abe Lenstra, the legendary Fries hero of many a Belgian derby, exploded into print: "Football? This was nothing. To start with the £8,000 a man this team will get by making Munich should be halved immediately! It was just a laugh."

Meanwhile the Dutch premier division team bosses were joining in. Said Georg Knobel, trainer of MVV: "A team with so much talent and so much attacking power (his own Brokamp was up front with Cruyff and Keizer) should not have played the game the way they did. But then again I know only too well why they did it." He went on to elucidate: "In big matches and competition there is no boundary to it. A trainer in the Premier Division has always to think of the result. It's a pity but it's hard reality."

As if that wasn't enough, Cor van der Hart of AZ'67 put in his tuppence worth: "The supporters don't get to see a good match but if the Dutch team wants to get to West Germany you will get these sort of games. Let's be honest, in three weeks time no one will talk about the way they got the point, just the fact that they did get it. And I don't believe the interest in football is put in danger by this kind of defensive play." National football, he said, had to be separated from competition football.

Holland had set their course well in Belgium . . . "and with that are quite sure of having a good result in the end. That's important."

If Knobel and van der Hart were understanding, Kees Rijvers of PSV—a man tipped to take over from Fadrhonc a year ago—was definitely not. Not known for his willingness to be drawn into such a conflict, he slammed this time: "Nobody, no one can accept this kind of football for long! Nobody can play this sort of football with these means and material. It's an unimaginable business. We're on the wrong road".

Nailed down

Rijvers sees the Dutch limping to Germany while they should be roaring—and scanning the Dutch guns he's right of course. With six of the Ajax squad which nailed down the coffin of Inter for the European Cup—by sheer exciting football—plus Feyenoord's van Hanegem and de Jong, plus the brilliant PSV goalkeeper, van Beveren, Dr. Fadrhonc had every reason to keep the faith.

On the club front, Ajax led the premier division after 14 games on goal average from Feyenoord—both had 24 points. Hammering along hard on their heels, however, was FC Twente only three points adrift. FC Den Haag had been pleasing too but then dropped from third place to sixth place—and out of contention—with a disastrous six week run.

And for Feyenoord they had some good cheer to brighten the depression which followed dismissal from the UEFA Cup by OFK Beograd. Rinus Israel returned on November 26 after missing the early season through a knee injury.

The Ajax players parade with the World Club Championship trophy after they had beaten Independiente of Argentina.

LARNE TOWN TASTE BIG TIME

Des Dickson of Coleraine . . . dogged by bad luck on the transfer market.

News from Ireland

by

COLIN McALPIN

THOUGH they have gained senior status to the Irish League after 15 years of trying, Larne Town know only too well that their first taste of the big time for 33 years won't have exactly the same sweetness that accompanied their every move in the B Division during a decade sprinkled with heady and crowd-pulling glory.

They are, indeed, honest enough to admit that if they don't finish at the bottom of the table when it's all over they'll be happy enough.

Larne were brought into the senior grade in place of Derry City and the move gave them only a matter of weeks to prepare for what promises to be a tough, closely-fought battle for the title.

Elevation

But they are glad to have been given the chance. "We feel optimistic about our chances, we have always maintained this is our rightful place and we are confident we will hold our end up," commented the dapper Ken Pritchard, a member of the club's management committee and a long-time advocate of the elevation of the club from the junior ranks—and even before their first League outing against Ards had put in hand several fund-raising and general public relations campaigns.

The progressive County Antrim seaside club know they have not, as yet, the facilities for senior football nor the players capable of sustaining a really effective challenge for major honours.

But in time all these will come and in the meantime officials know they can bring with them to the higher sphere a support that puts many long-established seniors to shame and a record of success that is, quite frankly, staggering.

Two of the Irish League's finest footballers—Des Dickson of Coleraine and Martin Donnelly of Distillery—must be wondering what they have to do to prove to potential buyers that their ability is not a fleeting thing.

Managers

And they must also be wondering when they are going to get a fair deal from managers who say they are interested in their services. Both, in recent weeks, have had raw deals in the transfer market.

Take the case of Dickson. He's been the League's most lethal striker for three seasons, has a full "cap" to his credit and is threatening to add to the honour and he's never out of the transfer spotlight. But, somehow, all his hopes are dashed with what is now disgusting regularity.

First Beerschots, the Belgian First Division club, had him over and seemed certain to sign him. Nothing came of it and then Bolton stepped in with a series of trials. Nothing came of that and Peterborough United came through with hopeful sounds.

Manager Noel Cantwell wanted him to go for a week's trial and felt peeved when Coleraine refused. Now the struggling Fourth Division club have pulled out of any deal on the grounds that they wanted him in time for the F.A. Cup run—if they have one—but couldn't get him fixed up in the deadline time.

Treatment

Now to Donnelly. He's an amateur international, a rugged defender who can play just about anywhere. His tour of clubs took him to Sheffield and Peterborough and brought him to the attention of League of Ireland Cork Hibs.

Hibs offered £2,500, then changed their minds and asked if he could be sent down for a trial. Small wonder Distillery boss Jimmy McAlinden threw their letter in the fire in disgust.

I know the local game's in a bad way, but that's no reason for such shoddy treatment at the hands of other clubs who seem to think that they can get away with murder when dealing with players they fancy. The idea of asking two such excellent players to go on trial is quite, quite laughable.

WORLD SOCCER DIARY

THE letters are addressed to "King Pele" or "Pele-King of Brazil" or simply "Mr. Number Ten." Some bear no other indication but they all end up safely at the home of Senhor Edson Arantes do Nascimento, better known as Pele.

There are an average of 80 letters a day from all over the world and Pele, a busy businessman now near the end of his soccer career, keeps his "Tio Jorge" (Uncle George) busy answering the enquiries which range from calls for financial aid to simple requests for autographs or just good wishes for the future.

The world famed star, has retired from international matches but is still active for his club, Santos. He celebrated his 32nd birthday in October and revealed the contents of some of the letters which reached his home.

Literature

An Indian schoolteacher from Mapusa, Goa, asked for a few photographs of Pele "playing the game well" to demonstrate to his students since "we have no access to photographic and film literature on this matter here."

A South Vietnamese priest from Gia Dinh coolly asked Pele for a gift of 200,000 dollars (£80,000) to build a school and soccer ground.

"Certainly this is a great amount of money, but for the rich sir it is certainly not impossible." the priest said in postscript.

From Lvov, Russia, a local soccer fan simply sends birthday greetings and a wish to see Pele in Russia soon. From Birmingham, England, a request for the replacement of a lost autograph.

From Malawi, Africa, a letter says: "I would like you to know that I carry your name on a medallion and hope you will not be angry to know that everybody here calls me Pele. Also I heard that you, sir, might be coming to Africa to train boys. Please come to Malawi.

"In January 1973 I will be 17. I will hope you will have a happy birthday." Signed: Sudhir V. Gangani (Pele) Blantyre.

But Pele also gets the occasional hate letter. From Germany, one person wrote: "In 74 we will dope our players again, we will play like a horde of savage S.S. so that nobody can beat us and we will beat all of them. If there are protests from FIFA or any other country we will blow Munich Stadium sky high.

"You know we are a race which loves justice, but more we are a super-race and the others are second category. Nobody can get as angry as us, so nobody will be able to beat us."

Two clubs who draw on occasions up to 90,000 fans to their home games, and who often take £100,000-plus at the gate, are threatened with eviction! Where is such a humiliation possible? Apparently in Italy, where the world famous clubs Inter and AC Milan—both former European and World champions—who share the magnificent San Siro Stadium, have fallen behind with their rent!

The ground belongs to the municipality, who told these soccer giants recently, that unless they pay up, they would have to look for somewhere else to play! The recent derby game between these "lodgers" drew a gate of 81,000, who paid a cool £140,000 in receipts.

The cheapest admission was £1.20, a price specially raised, of course, in view of the importance of the match, as is customary in Italy where clubs can increase charges in accordance with the occasion. On the black market tickets for this affair were changing hands for up to £50! And this was only a League match! Incidentally, the receipts were a record for a championship game in Italy.

But the local council are unimpressed. Inter and AC Milan owe £66,500. . . . The municipality normally charge 7 per cent of gross takings from League games, and 5 per cent from Cup matches. And now the city's treasurers office are losing patience . . .

Roberto Boninsegna, on his kn
Milan—AC Milan clash

IF you asked a Chinaman if his country was suffering from falling gates he would probably rush to the Great Wall anxious to see whether the structure had been breached.

And if you did manage to get through to him the fact that you were talking about the drop in football attendances he would certainly not understand the point.

For at present there seems little wrong with the game in China as far as the size of crowds watching is concerned. A recent friendly between the Chinese national team and Partizan Tirana from the Albanian First Division ended with a 2—1 win for the home side. Nothing spectacular of course but what was most significant about the event was the attendance in Peking which was a colossal 130,000! No they are too unsophisticated to worry about falling gates at the moment . . .

Jeunesse D'Esch are the autumn champions in Luxembourg at the halfway stage of the First Division programme. After 11 games they had taken 18 points and with the best attack (33 goals) and most consistent defence (10 goals) seem firm favourites for their first title for three seasons.

Their leading marksman, Jean-Pierre Hoffman, is joint top scorer in the League to date with 13 goals.

A week before the championship reached the half-way mark a

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The annual scramble for the Welsh Cup, and with it access to Europe, starts in earnest this month with five Football League clubs joining the pursuit.

Wrexham, the holders, open their defence of the trophy with an awkward tie at Chester. Swansea's home tie against Newport County offers the chance to avenge a League Cup defeat by Newport early in the season and Hereford, the only serious threat from across the border, are home to Welsh League club Pembroke Borough.

Cardiff City, anxious to regain the Cup after allowing Wrexham to interrupt their monopoly, start at Aberystwyth where the local Mid-Wales League club are scarcely overawed by their Second Division opponents

"Cardiff beat us 3—0 here a few years back," says Aberystwyth secretary Roy Hancock. "We're better now than we were then. We'll give them a very hard game—and that's a promise."

LEAGUE matches in Egypt came to a halt for a month while the qualifying round games for the Second African Games took place in Cairo.

All the players of Mehalla are workers of the most famous spinning factory of Mehalla, a rural town at the north of Delta. They do not only spin the finest cotton in Egypt, they also 'spin' the finest team-work in the Egyptian league.

Their defence is the strongest, their attack the quickest and their idol, Amasha, is the league's top scorer.

WORLD SOCCER DIARY

Unexpected heavy rain did not prevent Egypt from qualifying for the African Games to be held in Lagos in January.

Somalia and Egypt opened the elimination tournament staged in Cairo. Uganda and Kenya were the other participants. The pitch was almost waterlogged, and despite the unfamiliar conditions Egypt beat Somalia 4-2.

The following day, the feared Uganda side beat Kenya 1-0 and then drew 2-2 with Egypt, much to the disappointment of the home fans. Yet Doala, of Somalia, paved the way for Egypt to qualify when he scored the only goal of his country's game with Uganda.

Somalia then drew 2-2 with Kenya, leaving Egypt requiring just a draw against Kenya to ensure their passage to Lagos. Shehta scored from the penalty spot in the 54th minute to give Egypt a 1-0 victory.

Kenya kept a close watch on the outstanding Egyptian forwards—notably Ali Abu Greisha, who has rejected an offer from a West German club, and Saied Abdul Razek (nickname: "Bazooka") and Amasha.

Seventeen goals were scored in the six qualifying round matches. Top scorers were: Bazooka (Egypt) 3, Ahmed El Saghir (Somalia) 3, Doala (Somalia) 2.

The Egyptian league will be resumed after Egypt have played their World Cup matches against Tunisia.

Other countries who have qualified for the African Games are: Algeria, Guinea, Upper Volta, Ghana, Congo (Braz.), Tanzania and Nigeria (host country).

WEST Germany's leading players do not favour a reported plan by UEFA to enlarge the size of the goal . . . a proposal also put forward by Joao Havelange in WORLD SOCCER this month.

"Man, are they crazy?" national goalkeeper Sepp Maier exclaimed after tests carried out by some of the country's crack marksmen at the Bayern Munich training ground.

Even Gerd Mueller, one of the highest-scoring forwards in the world, was not in favour of the proposed new goal, which would be both wider and higher than the present one.

"It takes the fun out of goal-scoring," he said. "I prefer the smaller one."

The tests were organised by Bayern Munich in conjunction with a mass circulation newspaper. A poll of the goalkeepers of West Germany's leading clubs brought, not surprisingly, a unanimous thumbs down. "If the big goal is introduced we might as well pack up unless two goalkeepers are permitted," commented Gerhard Heinze, 23, of Stuttgart.

"Why not extend it the whole length of the goal line," was the sarcastic comment of Wolfgang Kleff, 25-year-old custodian of Borussia Moenchengladbach. Jupp Elting, of 1st FC Kaiserlautern, said instead of enlarging the goal, UEFA should try out a different offside rule to make the game livelier and more mobile.

Lorenze Horr, of Hertha BSC, did not think a bigger goal would make all that difference. "If you miss a goal that is 7.32 metres wide you'll miss one that is 8.05 metres, because the forward aims instinctively for the outside corner," he pointed out.

That is what worries Maier. He had no difficulty in the tests reaching the crossbar but he needed all his strength and agility to get his fingers to the ball when aimed at the top corner.

Stefan Kovacs, trainer of European Cup holders Ajax Amsterdam, has denied that his club are about to sign Wlodzimierz Lubanski from Poland. Commenting on reports from Poland that Lubanski might soon become an Ajax player, Kovacs said: "There is no truth in that at all. It's pure imagination.

"We bought Jan Mulder for a million and a half guilders (about £180,000) from Anderlecht and he will have recovered in a few weeks time from his knee operation."

But, meanwhile, Gus Brokx, manager of Holland's other top club, Feyenoord, said he travelled to Poland seeking Lubanski's transfer.

"The reply of the Polish Football Association and Gornik was completely negative. Lubanski won't leave Poland, where the rule is that players are not allowed to go abroad before their 30th year," Brokx said.

'There was nothing we could do...'

Swiss report from .... Arthur Rotmil

"THERE was really nothing we could do: 5—1!"—This is how Switzerland's leading sportspaper Sport Zurich headlined their story of that debacle suffered by their national side at the hand—or rather feet and heads—of the rampant Germans. It was sadly but not wholly unexpectedly, their first defeat in an away match for over three years and also the first setback after five successive draws.

The Swiss, who only a year ago received generous praise for their skilfully and closely fought battles with England in the European Championship series, were exposed by the "German express train", as one paper put it, sometimes to the point of being outclassed. Those two outstanding midfield men Odermatt and Kuhn, who at Wembley gave England a rare run-around with their precision passing and creative openings, were reduced to clusing shadows, though in fairness it must be said that Köbi Kuhn was not 100 per cent fit, which didn't help the heavily over-worked midfield.

Although the full house of 70,000 at Düsseldorf's magnificent stadium generously applauded the Swiss efforts, in particular their scrupulously fair tactics, they could afford to be benevolent toward an outthought, outfought and outmanoeuvred opponent. Never in the history of international matches, have Swiss journalists devoted more space in their reports to the playing ability of their adversaries, than to their own team, as was the case now.

Phenomenal striker

Yet, their accounts, whilst acknowledging the German superiority, did not slay or discredit the performance of their men. They realised that on that night no team in the world could have stood up successfully to these Germans. And this theme ran throughout the post mortems on that 1—5 thrashing. It was Switzerland's heaviest defeat for nearly five years—since the 0—4 slump in Italy in a European Championship tie.

One could put forward the argument that a place should have been found in this team for the libero Chapuisat, who wasn't even called back from France. One can debate the merits of asking Guyot—a "soft" defender—to mark that phenomenal striker Gerd Müller. One can even make out a case that it was rank foolish to detail Odermatt, such a creative player, to police the great Günter Netzer. And was it wise to persevere with an obviously unfit Kuhn?

Ultimate outcome

But in the final analysis, it was abundantly clear to everyone at Düsseldorf that no matter who had been entrusted with these various tasks, it would not have made a scrap of difference to the ultimate outcome. After riding for a while on the crest of a wave and thinking that the "unlucky" 2—3 defeat at Basle, plus the "honourable" 1—1 draw at Wembley against England were splendid results, the Swiss have now realised that that England team was, by comparison with the Germans, quite ordinary. And therefore those results of last year must be viewed in another context altogether.

The Helvetians deserve praise for refusing to play strictly defensively and thus they made their contribution to a fine game. But despite this heavy defeat the Swiss can also point to one or two bright spots. There was for example centre forward Kurt "Kudi" Müller, who repeatedly caused Schwarzenbeck moments of anxiety, although he lacked support. The big Bayern defender, who in last season's European Championship quarter-finals completely shut out Martin Chivers of England, said afterwards: "Müller was better than most strikers I have met in my international career."

Objective observers

For the Swiss manager Bruno Michaud the German demonstration provided several lessons. He was criticised in some quarters for the deployment of his forces, but most objective observers agreed, that the odds were stacked too heavily against him. Of his opponents Michaud says: "The Germans have the best team in the world". Since it can be assumed that Turkey and Luxembourg will be overcome in their World Cup qualifying group, Michaud's main task now is to prepare a strong side to fight out the decisive battle with Italy, for a place in the 1974 Finals.

On the domestic scene the race for the championship has just passed the half way stage, even before the customary winter break. All the first signs of the changing season were already in evidence in November. That is when attendances at ice hockey matches become higher than at soccer! And since the first snow has already fallen, the sporting public prefer to sit in heated indoor arenas, than freeze whilst following football on ice!

Finishing burst

At the break, the defending champions FC Basel were occupying an unusual position—at the top! In recent years the Basler outfit have invariably lagged behind coming from the back strongly in an impressive finishing burst.

Basel have already claimed the first trophy of the season: Switzerland's first ever League Cup. In the final Basel beat Winterthur by 4—1, before a disappointingly small crowd of only 7,600 on a neutral ground in Zurich. A hat-trick by the German star Ottmar Hitzfeld decided the issue. But the competition generally has failed to fire the imagination of the fans and it is doubtful whether the tournament will be staged again.

River Plate's veteran international winger, Mas, scores another goal which helps him to stay at the top of the scorers table.

SOUTH AMERICAN ROUND-UP

by ERIC WEIL

San Lorenzo maintain form

THE national championship, the second of the season's two major soccer tournaments in Argentina in which provincial champions participate together with First Division clubs, is in full swing and for once the First Division winners have maintained their form.

San Lorenzo, who won the First Division title by six points, top Section "A" of the national championship jointly with River Plate after seven games. This competition will be harder to win, however. The 26 clubs are split into two sections of 13 each, in which each club meets the other only once. Section winners then play off for the title, but if the second-placed club in each section finishes not more than three points behind the leaders, they will also participate in the play-off.

Runners-up

River Plate, the big club which hasn't been able to win anything in the last 15 years (during which time they have had to be content with the runners-up spot on numerous occasions), are easily leading scorers with 32 goals in seven games, but this includes eight against provincial club, Independiente de Trelew, who are not quite up to standard.

River's evergreen international winger, Mas, is still among the goals and jointly tops the scorers table with nine goals, together with team-mate, Morete, and Boca's Curioni.

South American champions, Independiente, are third in Section "A", but four points behind the leaders, but its their own fault that they are not closer. Following the second leg of the Europe-South America Cup in Holland (which they lost 3—0 to Ajax), they stayed in Europe for further games and did not return in time for the start of the national championship.

Thus they played their first game versus Lanus (who had finished bottom of the First Division) with reserves and lost 3—1. Throwing a league game—and perhaps the championship—away for a few extra dollars from tour games is a strange local custom and Independiente would have continued doing it if the F.A. had not ordered them to return in time for the second game. Independiente haven't lost since.

Boca Juniors lead group "B", with the season's most improved teams, Huracan and Colon de Santa Fe, two points behind. Of the provincial clubs, those from Mendoza, Cordoba and Mar del Plata are again holding their own against First Division rivals, but not the others —apart from the occasional upset.

Standings after seven games:—

Section "A": (1) River Plate, San Lorenzo 13 pts.; (3) Independiente, San Martin (Mendoza), Velez Sarsfield 9; (6) Rosario Central 8; (7) Atlanta, Lanus 7; (9) San Lorenzo (Mar del Plata) 6; (10) Gimnasia y Esgrima de La Plata, Bartolomé Mitre (Posadas) 3; (12) Independiente (Trelew) 2; (13) San Martin (Tucuman) 1.

Section "B": (1) Boca Juniors 12 pts.; (2) Huracan, Colon (Santa Fe) 10; (4) Belgrano (Cordoba) 9; (5) Gimnasia y Esgrima (Mendoza), Racing Club, Sportivo Desamparados (San Juan) 8; (8) Banfield 7; (9) Chacarita Juniors, Argentinos Juniors, Ferrocaril Oeste 5; (12) Estudiantes de La Plata 4; (13) Newell's Old Boys (Rosario) 1.

NACIONAL THREE POINTS UP

Nacional, beaten only once in 15 games so far this season, lead the Uruguayan First Division by three points. Their only defeat came in the eleventh game—the last of the first round—at the hands of unfancied River Plate by 1—0 when Nacional captain, Ubiña, put through his own goal. Defender, Ubiña, took the matter so much to heart that he offered his resignation to the Club's board after the game. This was, of course, not accepted.

The Uruguayan First Division standings now have their usual look about them, with the other big club, Peñarol, three points behind and the rest nowhere.

(1) Nacional 26 pts.; (2) Peñarol 23; (3) Defensor 17; (4) Cerro, Huracan Buceo 16; (6) Rentistas, River Plate 15; (8) Liverpool, Sudamerica 12; (10) Bella Vista 11; (11) Danubio 10; (12) Central Español 7.

LEAGUE STANDINGS ELSEWHERE

Colombia (Campeonato "Finalización" after 16 games): (1) Atletico Nacional 23 pts.; (2) Deportivo Cali 22; (3) Millionarios de Bogotá, Junior, Cucuta 19; (6) Independiente-Santa Fe 18; (7) America de Cali 17; (8) Tolima 16; (9) Deportivo Pereira, Once Caldas 14; (11) Deportivo Quindio 13; (12) Independiente Medellin 12; (13) Union Magdalena 10; (14) Bucamaranga 8.

● Continued on page 44

VACLAV JEZEK, former manager of Spartak Prague

GENERATI
BIGGEST P

THE game in Czechoslovakia has fallen behind the leading countries in Europe and in the national team I think it will take two or three years to modernise the playing method. Of course, I will do all I can to effect the necessary changes more quickly but the problem goes deep and there are no easy answers. At the same time I should make it clear that I am convinced that we can qualify for the 1974 World Cup. If I didn't believe this I wouldn't have taken the job.

But the facts have to be faced. Players from the past like Josef Bican and the Cruyffs and Mullers of today cannot be produced at will. Coaching and training can improve players but the outstanding stars that are the backbone of any good team have to be born with certain qualities. They cannot acquire them or be given them by training.

There are few such players in Czechoslovakia and we must have three or four to form the pillars of the team if we are to compete successfully against the best teams in the world. I would single out Ivo Viktor, the Dukla goalkeeper, and Ladislav Kuna, the midfield general from Spartak Trnava and there are three or four more who might measure up to the required standards. We have had such players in the recent past and here I would suggest, as examples, Novak and Masopust of Dukla and four of the Sparta players Tichy, Kvasnak, Masek and Vojta. But their equals are hard to find in Czechoslovakia today.

Generations

The biggest single problem is the gap between the generations. On the one hand we have some very good but older players who are experienced and on the other some very promising young players who are not really ready yet. The older players may be too old, particularly for 1974 and the youngsters may not be ready in time.

I'm not even sure yet what playing system suits the available Czech players best and to a great extent this accounts for our recent disappointing results in international matches. We are experimenting not only with players but also with the method of play and, of course, this takes time and has to be paid for.

Mr. Malatinsky the manager of Spartak Trnava tells me that Kuna could play the attacking *libero* type of game played for West Germany by Beckenbauer and we shall try it. But generally Czech players lack imagination and the ability to improvise and produce the unexpected.

There also seems to be a general lack of real enthusiasm for the game as compared with my own playing days and this, too, presents problems. In my time the players enjoyed training, looked forward to it, and worked with enthusiasm. Nowadays, training is regarded as a duty not a pleasure and therefore there has to be more strict discipline.

Indication

My recent experiences in Holland serve to underline this. The Dutch players generally took the game more seriously and were more willing to accept responsibility. One little indication of this different attitude is demonstrated by the fact that in my experience the players in Holland were always early at the training ground and quick to get out of the changing room and onto the training ground. They were also more aggressive but I don't believe that a more aggressive approach to the game would answer our problems.

These days many teams play very carefully in defence, relying on their opponents to make errors in defence and thus present them with scoring chances. My personal conception of the game does not go along these lines. I believe that we must be more positive in our approach, trying to play in such a way that by attacking we create opportunities to score. But it is very difficult to be successful against teams that are happy to defend and rely on defensive errors at the other end.

Experience

One thing that appears to be pretty uniform in my experience is the tendancy to blame the manager or coach when things do not go well. When a team has problems or gets a run of bad results,the usual remedy is to sack the manager. No doubt this is the easiest and cheapest way of improving things as club officials see the situation. But in my experience changing the manager doesn't always have the desired effect and a succession of managers can serve to confuse many players. Very often I have found the problems or the root of the problems lie not with the manager but with the club officials who decide to sack him.

There are many important differences between the Czech players and the Dutch. For example, apart from the self-discipline and attitude towards training there is the question of self confidence. The Dutch have it but in the main this is one of the Czech players main failings. For example, good or bad referees play a decisive influence on competitive international matches. With so much importance attached to qualifying games for the World Cup etc., a bad referee's decision can demoralise a Czech team. But the Dutch have sufficient self-confidence, to overcome such difficulties, really believing that they can still win. Developing belief in themselves will be one of my main tasks with the Czech national team.

Handicap

The standard of play amongst the Prague clubs seems to be particularly low at the moment. I believe that both Sparta and Dukla could improve but at Slavia the problems are much deeper and there are too many of them. Sparta's biggest handicap is perhaps their lack of stamina which showed up very clearly in the recent European Cup Winners Cup matches with Standard-Liege. Yet, for example, some of the Sparta players are very good. Jurkanin is an outstanding example; very skilful, as is Bubenko the Presov centre forward. Though very good technical players and perhaps comparable with players like Cruyff in some way they lack the Dutch star's awareness and intelligence.

Compared with what I saw in Holland during my three years with ADO I am sure that the top clubs in Czechoslovakia, and the top players are only giving around 80% of their potential. It follows that they could be 20% more successful and the standards will have to improve drastically. Our set-up is far from ideal but the Dutch had their problems, too. For example, it is only recently that ADO became full professionals. During my first two years with the club we had only five full time professionals yet we managed to finish third in 1970-71 and were top of the league at one stage.

Qualifying for the UEFA Cup was a real achievement. But there the conditions in which the manager works were much

and ADO, now Czechoslovakian team manager, says

ON GAP IS ROBLEM...

better. I had very good assistant coaches for example and had a completely free hand to deal with the players and all playing matters as I thought best. In three years I had only three official meetings with the club Directors.

Of course I met them often but in social circumstances and my contacts with them were maintained more through private conversations with them as individuals. In Czechoslovakia the freedom of action allowed the club managers is much more limited.

Shortage

But in Holland, apart from Ajax and Feyenoord, most clubs have one great problem—the shortage of money. ADO, in my time, received a substantial grant every year from the city of The Hague but they just couldn't afford to compete with the two big clubs. To have matched them in terms of results and success it would have been necessary to buy one or two new players but through circumstances it usually worked the other way around—being forced to transfer players to keep the club's finances on an even keel.

The Czech clubs don't have such difficulties but there are other problems just as difficult. And the encouragement given to young players in Holland was much better organised. From the age of 8 years the youngsters associated with the leading clubs met each other regularly in friendly matches and in older age groups they played in competitive leagues. Overall the standard of youth players was higher than in Czechoslovakia and in addition to the usual training programmes the Dutch boys spent more time just playing with a ball.

What I would like most is to find some way of encouraging Czech players to adopt the same approach to the game that I found in Holland. There the players give the game a higher priority in their personal lives. What they eat, how they live and the hours they sleep and rest are vital if players are to give the maximum. This is the key to the problems facing the game in Czechoslovakia, how to get the players to realise the maximum of their potential. I have no doubt the potential exists and though I recognise the problems I am optimistic both about the long term and the immediate future, which of course means qualifying for the 1974 World Cup.

Josef Masopust, one of the Czech stars of yesteryear.

COLIN JOSE reports... from the USA

Atlanta may carry on if new franchise can be found

THE Atlanta Chiefs, one of the three remaining members of the 17-team North American Soccer League of 1968, announced in October that they were voluntarily terminating their franchise, thus reducing the present membership to seven teams.

Officials of the NASL have, however, indicated that the situation in Atlanta is that there is another group of investors interested in operating the franchise, and Commissioner Phil Woosnam has stated: "A new franchise can be put together, it is now a matter of whether is can be done in time for next season."

Apparently the owners of the Atlanta franchise, the Atlanta Braves Baseball Club, tried to sell the franchise to an interested group for at least four times the franchise fee, and were turned down. This group then contacted the NASL to enquire as to the exact franchise fee and on being told that it was $25,000 immediately expressed an interest.

Atlanta were formed in 1966 as a team in the outlawed National Professional Soccer League, and remained in existence after the merger with the United Soccer Association late in 1967 to form the North American Soccer League. In 1968, with Phil Woosnam as the coach, they won the championship beating San Diego in the final.

Membership

In 1969 Atlanta were instrumental in keeping the NASL alive but by the time that the 1971 season had rolled around there were disturbing rumours that the club was in difficulties and on the verge of pulling out. But they stayed in membership for yet another season and in the meantime ownership of the baseball club changed hands and reliable sources early in 1972 had it that the new owners wanted to get rid of the soccer part of their company. However, they struggled through one more season, before finally in late August it was decided to discontinue the operation of the Chiefs.

In 1967 Atlanta was projected as the weak link in the NPSL since the sport of soccer was totally alien to the south. The Chiefs proved everyone wrong and finished second in attendance that year with an announced average of 6,962 fans for nine home games—more than twice the projected average for the first year.

More important, perhaps, the game began to grow at the grass roots level thanks to the tremendous efforts of Phil Woosnam and the players on the team who conducted clinics and went out and sold the game to the public. Manchester City played there twice in 1968 to crowds in excess of 20,000 and over 25,000 watched the Chiefs play Santos but, after this season, attendances dropped even though the club continued to have a strong and attractive team.

Richard A. Cecil, Vice-President of the Atlanta Chiefs' notes that "although soccer has shown a steady growth in the youth leagues and other amateur programmes, this growth has not been reflected in the attendance at the Chiefs games. Since our entry into soccer in 1967, we have lost over $1.5 million, and we can no longer justify any more expense to continue. We still feel that one day soccer will take its place among the major professional sports in the United States, and if it does show significant progress within the next few years, it is possible we will be interested in taking another look at it. In the meantime, if a local group in Atlanta wishes to continue in soccer, we will do everything we can to aid in its success."

Appointment

Shortly after the Atlanta announcement, the NASL indicated that its seventh season will open on May 5, 1973 and will conclude with the championship game on August 25. The Miami Gatos who, many people thought were a one season entry, seem all set for their second season with the reappointment of General Manager Norm Sutherland, whose biggest task at the moment is to find a new coach.

Toronto Metros have announced that they have already posted their $75,000 performance bond with the league, something they didn't do last season until well into 1972. At a press conference recently, General Manager Jack Daley also announced that the teams in the Northern Division will play for the Can-Am Cup in addition to the regular NASL games between teams in the Northern and Southern Divisions.

It was felt he said that there were not enough games in the regular NASL schedule and so the Northern teams had created their own competition within the NASL. The other teams in the Northern Division are Montreal, New York and Rochester.

The new Toronto coach to replace the popular Graham Leggat (now in the public relations department of a well-known Canadian brewers) is Arthur Rodrigues, who took Leggat's place in the final six games of last season.

Born in Lisbon, Portugal, Rodrigues played for Club Oriental, Vitoria Setubal and Benfica as a goalkeeper, before coming to Canada in 1958. He is now a Canadian citizen.

Since coming to this country he has played for and coached a number of clubs, and his most impressive coaching credentials are coaching First Portuguese and Toronto Croatia of the Ontario National League to back to back championships in 1969 and 1970.

Rodrigues has the advantage of knowing both the Canadian scene while also having good connections in Europe. But he told the press: "My policy will be Canadian first, because there are quite a few Canadian players who, when brought together, would make the Metros a contender in the NASL."

He stressed that ability would be his criterion and that if 16 Eskimos could do the job then they would be hired. "Nationality will not be of any importance on my team. As long as the player has the ability I like, he will be on this team."

It will be interesting to see if he can produce a winner, something Toronto has never had in either the NPSL or the NASL. If he does and he does it with Canadian players perhaps the true potential of Toronto, one of North America's top soccer cities, will finally be realised.

COME-BACK FOR 'YOUNG' COLLINS

by ERIC THORNTON

THE fans of today keep asking where the top players of yesterday are, and, generally, it's a difficult question to answer even when one has complete access to the necessary records.

I do know where to contact such great stars of other years as Stan Mortensen, Jackie Milburn, Tommy Lawton, Jack Rowley, George Hardwick, Billy Wright and Dixie Dean. But what about the rest?

Let's concern ourselves today with just one, and with a man who was the idol of not only his own country, but also of several clubs in fantastic succession—Bobby Collins.

What a name! A Prince of players. A great Scottish international. And in a period when the accomplished crowded the soccer scene, and for a bob any youngster could watch a dozen aces displaying their individual skills.

Build-up

He was, so to speak, the first brick in the great build-up at Elland Road, and to this day Don Revie says of this fantastic little general: "He was probably our greatest-ever buy."

Certainly, he wrote his name in letters of gold on the Yorkshire club's honours board. It couldn't be otherwise for he possessed the know-how and courage to point out and then trace by individual effort and aplomb the way ahead to greatness.

Robert Collins, son of Glasgow, maturing product of his beloved Glasgow Celtic, one time kingpin of Everton's Goodison Road stand, used to haul himself to such tremendous heights that all the folk forgot that normally it was the devil's own job reaching up to a miserly 5 ft 3 inches in his you-know-what.

Departure

Merseysiders were beginning to wonder "whither Collins" when the sixties dawned. At that time the little Scot was one of the Merseysiders' aces, and I can tell you that more than a ripple of anger spread over the river and up the West coast when suddenly a departure date was announced.

Some thought the club had lost its sense of priorities: others that Collins might have been released earlier because it was mistakenly imagined that the better days had gone for this strange hunk of granite and dynamo.

Bobby himself, however, soon proved that the Hill of Life was higher than some anticipated, and, therefore, he was far from going over the top. Indeed, once having settled down on that rocky encumbrance they call the Pennines he began converting Leeds United into an outfit of endeavour, blood and guts.

Bemoaning

He became the Talk of the Town, then ran slap into a disaster that might have left 99 per cent convalescing for the rest of their lives while bemoaning the strange quirks of fate.

The date was Oct. 6th, 1965. Leeds, holding a first leg lead of 2—1 over Torino, were fighting out the return game of the Fairs Cup in the colourful and ancient Italian city when Bobby dancing and weaving a way through was brought down suddenly in a cruel tackle. The thigh bone had snapped. His broken leg was waving about on the night breeze.

They rushed him to hospital, gathered the shattered pieces together as in a jig-saw puzzle, then pushed a 12-inch pin through the whole length of the thigh bone. And, eventually, he came back, dug out those size three boots once more, and continued playing his heart out.

Windswept

Came a spell with Morton, the Scottish Leaguers, another trip south over the border, and now what have we? Why, he's joined Oldham Athletic for coaching purposes—but is also turning out for them when required.

Some of those who gather together on the windswept open terraces of Boundary Park are wondering if Collins will ever hang up his boots. And so am I.

For at 41 years of age he can still leave some of the youngsters behind in short sprints, and nobody—yes, nobody—fights harder for possession and is harder to rob.

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Celtic out but Hibs march on

CELTIC waved farewell to their European Cup aspirations in the dark city of Budapest, but anyone thinking Scotland now have absolutely no chance of winning a major European trophy this season better not put their life-savings on it!

There is a team of all-talents waiting in the shadows in Edinburgh desperate to prove to Europe that Scottish soccer just doesn't mean the Old Firm of Celtic and Rangers. That team is Hibs . . . the team who shattered Sporting Club, of Lisbon, and FC Besa, of Albania, in the opening two rounds in the Cup Winners Cup. These ties have pulled out the devastating best in the Easter Road side.

An incredible tally of 15 goals is a fitting salute to Hibs' power in Europe this term. To watch them in action is to watch a goal-hungry machine doing its almighty best to dismantle the rival defences. They are as lethal as any side left in the Cup Winners' Cup and they are indeed a good bet to keep the trophy in Scotland after Rangers' victory in Barcelona over Moscow Dynamo last term.

Courage

Their repertoire of attacking moves is vast. They are always thinking that one vital move ahead of their opponents . . . they are always concentrating. They have been starved of success in recent years, but the proud Edinburgh club are confident that they can make the big breakthrough now. Manager Eddie Turnbull has got the players believing in themselves again and he has instilled in them that spark of courage he showed when he played for Hibs in the fifties.

He has ironed out the faults in the team and the individuals. Players with pure skill who haven't relished the heavy going in the past have been transformed into men who would take on King Kong quite cheerfully if it was for the good of Hibs. No-one has ever doubted the artistry of winger Arthur Duncan. He has always been a more than useful player with a neat line in body-swerves, good centres and well-struck shots.

But in the past Arthur has tended to wander out to the wing and stay there when the weight was being thrown about in the middle of the park. Not now though! It is almost unbelievable to see the sight of Duncan chasing, harrying, tackling and doing a real team job. And Arthur will be the first to admit he is a far better player.

This is just one part of the Easter Road side that has been improved beyond recognition. John Brownlie is probably the best right-back in Scotland at the moment, possibly Britain. He has matured more over the past 12 months than was thought possible. His overlapping displays are breathtaking to behold. He knows exactly when to time his run upfield. He can hold the ball and use it well in midfield and he refuses to panic in any situation.

And some of his shots must have Celtic fans sighing in fond remembrance of their former flamboyant full-back Tommy Gemmell. But it is grossly unfair to individualise when it comes to talking about Hibs. They are a team of superb players who play a team game. Certainly there are players who may be more talented than others and who play a more glamorous role, but as Turnbull stresses it is just as important for one of his defenders to boot the ball off their own line as it is for one of his attackers to put the ball over it at the other end.

'An incredible tally of 15 goals is a salute to their power'

Confidence

Hibs will do Scotland proud in this European tournament I am positive of that. There is a lot about their play that reminds one of the Celtic team in 1967 when they won the Champions' Cup in Lisbon. Hibs have that extra-special quality. Flair . . . all-round ability . . . strength . . . confidence. Call it what you will, but it is most certainly there and it is in evidence for any soccer fan who cares to turn up and see for himself.

I saw Hibs demolish Celtic in the Drybrough Cup Final at Hampden when they won 5—3 and although I was impressed by their attacking capabilities I wasn't so happy about their defence. After all they were 3—0 up at one point and they allowed Celtic to pull back to 3—3 before forcing the game into extra-time. The extra 30 minutes took too much out of the Parkhead team after their efforts to equalise and Hibs scored two more goals. Remember, too, that Celtic had also faced extra-time in their mid-week tie against those other super-fit fanatics Aberdeen just four days before Hampden.

Beating Celtic undoubtedly helped Hibs grow in confidence for they must have gone to Hampden with their Scottish Cup Final 6—1 drubbing from Jock Stein's men still fresh in their minds. But Hibs have improved tremendously since the Drybrough Cup Final.

I am certain if they played the Drybrough Cup Final tomorrow Hibs would NOT lose a three-goal lead. They were immature to ease off at Hampden and let Celtic take the game to them. This is asking for trouble against the Parkhead men. I believe they would know now themselves what to do in the same circumstances without Turnbull telling them.

Their brief journeys to Portugal and Albania have helped them grow up. When they returned from their trouble-strewn trip in Albania they immediately faced a very tricky League match against Morton at Cappielow. The Greenock side may not win the League this year or for that matter the next decade, but they can make life tough for the big teams on their own little pitch. But Hibs were ready for it . . . they expected it. They wouldn't be taken by surprise and they gained two valuable points after a 3—0 victory.

This is another tribute to their maturity. They face up to the challenges and do their utmost to overcome them. Another match I saw them in this season was at Hampden when they met Queen's Park in a League Cup qualifying section game. This was shortly after 70,000 had

ALEX GORDON reports from Scotland

watched them in the Drybrough Cup Final and a combined 220,000 had watched them in their two semi-final Scottish Cup-ties against Rangers and the Final against Celtic the previous season.

Only a handful of a thousand turned up to watch this tie, but the bare terracings did not affect the players. They got on with the job of collecting two points and they did it coldly and professionally. Other big sides may have let their concentration slip, but Hibs didn't.

They have the players with the spark of brilliance that is needed to win the major trophies. The players with the subtle touch to turn defeat into victory. They have a splendid skipper in Pat Stanton, who has had so many tributes from his fellow-professionals that it would be easy to understand if his hat-size had increased recently. But it hasn't and will never be allowed to . . . Pat will make sure of that.

At the back of the defence there is the absolutely dependable John Blackley. I doubt if there is another sweeper in Scotland who can read the game as well as Blackley. He very rarely puts a foot wrong and is so cool in even the tensest of situations that it is almost unbelievable.

Up front they have Alan Gordon. Alan played for Hearts and Dundee United before Turnbull brought out the best in him and his blond head is now a major menace to every defence he plays against.

He is lethal in the air and his shielding of the ball on the ground is first rate. Beside him is Jim O'Rourke, who has been with Hibs for ten years, but is still considered a bit of an overnight success with his superb form this season!

Jim has always been a hard worker, but now, at last, he has utilised his vicious shooting power . . . Scottish keepers will testify to that! In midfield there is the silky smooth Alex Cropley and the tricky Alex Edwards. The entire team just seems to fit into place. Every position can be filled without disrupting the natural rhythm of the team.

These players plus Turnbull plus total determination could lead to the European Cup Winners Cup finding a resting place at Easter Road this season.

Last month we asked whether you could recognise the building pictured above. It is, in fact, FIFA House in Zurich, headquarters of soccer's governing body. Colin Jose was a recent visitor.

MONTREAL FACE FRESH PROBLEM

SITTING in the library of FIFA House in Zurich in September of 1971, discussing the Olympic Soccer Tournament, scheduled for Montreal in 1976 with Dr. Helmut Kaser, Secretary-General of the world organisation, the subject of artificial turf was mentioned (writes COLIN JOSE).

"At the present time games cannot be played on artificial turf in the final rounds of any FIFA competition," Dr. Kaser informed me. This statement, which came as a surprise to me at that time, may yet provide the Canadian Soccer Association and the organising bodies of the games in Canada with a number of headaches before the planning for the Montreal games is complete. This is of course providing that there is a soccer tournament in the XXI Olympiad—something that still remains in considerable doubt.

The problem is that the Olympic Stadium in Montreal is planned to have artificial turf, thus ruling this out as a venue for soccer unless FIFA sees fit to change its rule by that time.

It would also rule out Canada's other three big stadiums which might have been considered as venues for the group games—Ivor Wynne Stadium in Hamilton, CNE Stadium in Toronto and Empire Stadium in Vancouver all of which already have synthetic turf.

In addition to this, if FIFA should change the rules by that time, then the permanent markings in these stadiums could also present problems. The reason being that when the artificial turf was laid it was marked out in heavy white lines five yards apart for Canadian football. The soccer markings, which are also permanent, are secondary to the football markings and in thin white lines.

One can hardly see FIFA living with this for an international tournament, especially as can well be judged the 20 yard line in football and the 18 yard penalty area in soccer are very close, and more than once have produced controversial decisions in local Canadian soccer games. In Olympic soccer of course those decisions would be magnified.

Of the remaining stadiums of any size suitable for soccer the Autostade and McGill in Montreal, Varsity Stadium in Toronto and Lansdowne Park in Ottawa (if it doesn't have artificial turf by that time) would then seem the most likely venues in what might be termed the Montreal area, bearing Canadian distances in mind.

These stadiums, with certain improvements, could come within FIFA requirements, providing of course there are no markings for Canadian football on the field. This may well produce further problems because the Canadian Football League season would normally be starting at the same time as the Olympics.

Ray Clemence, a probable starter against the Common Market countries.

Questions and answe

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BRITAIN'S entry into the European Common Market, on January 1, will not only lead to closer political, cultural and economic ties with some of the most important countries on the Continent it will also mean eventually a greater exchange of ideas, more contacts in sport at all levels and certainly some integration of various organising bodies which control notably professional football. With attendances falling and smaller clubs threatened with extinction in many countries, the launching of a European Super League may be much nearer than was thought possible a few years ago, when the project was first contemplated by some of the leading clubs on the Continent.

For the great majority of British fans there existed, and indeed still prevails, various curious and pre-conceived notions about the "continentals" and specifically their approach to soccer. Strangely enough even the advent—since 1955—of the principal European Cup competitions including the Nations Championship, not to mention the sustained interest in World Cup tournaments, has not entirely removed some of the attitudes in Britain, the origin of which can be traced to the lack of, or often inaccurate information. Foreign football is still treated in this country in a patronising, though sometimes contemptuous manner, which is not helping the present generation reared on the belief that whatever the results "British is best".

Criticise

Too many commentators, club managers, as well as some widely travelled journalists, who should know better, frequently appear to relish an opportunity to criticise "continental football"—whatever that may be!—presumably to satisfy the editors, who in turn assume that such slanted views please their readers. The net result is misconception, generalisations and, to put it bluntly—ignorance!

For the benefit of those who have only just joined the growing army of WORLD SOCCER readers, and especially for those fans whose concept of foreign football is still antiquated, I offer these points of information in question-and-answer form, which I sincerely hope will help to remove at least some of the existing misguided views.

1. When Britain joins the Common Market, this country will be swamped by European footballers, allowed in under the terms of free movement of labour. True or false?

False. Unless a British club offers a contract to a "Common Market" player, no European will venture here without being assured beforehand that he is wanted. Top continental stars will not "drop everything" to charge across the Channel seeking their fortunes in British soccer.

Players like Cruyff, Netzer, Beckenbauer, Müller or Riva, make more money at home than they could earn here. They would also consider their families, children's education, language barrier, environment etc. Most of their income now also comes from various promotions. And it is still inconceivable that German or Italian players could successfully advertise products on British television—what, in the middle of such choice programmes as "Hogan's Heroes", "Pathfinders" or "Family at War"?

Neither could they undersign ghost-written newspaper articles. But other than the top performers, British clubs would hardly consider engaging Europeans of the same class as home bred talent.

2. In European countries, players are allowed to be bought and sold as in Britain, practically all the year round. True or false?

False. Britain is the only land where players can be engaged almost at any time to within six weeks (mid-March deadline) of the season's end. In most countries once the off-season moves have been completed, no change of clubs is permitted during the playing programme. Only recently have West Germany, for instance, extended their transfer deadline until December 31.

But their season runs normally till June. In Hungary a player leaving a club, must wait a whole year before becoming eligible for another club. And in Russia, a footballer is only allowed to serve two clubs during his entire career! In some other countries transfers within the playing season are restricted to a so-called "second engagement" period usually for two weeks, but never past the half way stage of the championship!

3. English clubs and players perform in more matches than are allowed in any other country. We have the largest League and therefore the biggest fixture list. True or false?

False. Top German clubs play more games than the leading English sides. Before the start of this season, Bayern Munich, for example, played 21 games in the space of 38 days. This club now averages over 70 matches a year. In Brazil, where the top clubs have for years performed in 80—100 games a year, the government are now taking steps to limit the number, of games per club to 65—to protect the players!

The great Brazilians star Pelé, used to regularly play 100 games per annum. Last season, the brilliant German schemer Günter Netzer played over 100 matches. No British player reached anywhere near this total—the Players' Union would probably not allow it!

4. Continental football is different to British football. True or false?

False. There has never existed a style of play which could be defined as "continental". The Russians, Germans, Dutch and Scandinavians play their soccer just like the British, based strongly on physical application. The Central European school—Hungary, Austria, Czechoslovakia—used to favour the short-passing, intricate style, whilst the Latins—Portugal, Italy, Spain—prefer their soccer flamboyant and more

rs by ARTHUR ROTMIL

FACTS ABOUT NTINENTALS

spectacular, with the accent on individual artistry reflecting the national characteristics. To talk of "continental football" is utterly ignorant.

5. British teams and players are forced to perform in the worst ground and climatic conditions in Europe. True or false?

False. Winter in Germany, for instance, is far more severe than in Britain. German teams often play on snow-covered or solid frozen surfaces. Matches are frequently completed in conditions under which no game in Britain would even start. German players have to wear tights or ear-mufflers and even gloves, because they sometimes play in temperatures below freezing point!

Bad conditions are also experienced in Belgium, Holland and in Eastern Europe, if snow and frost start before their customary winter break or persist after the pause. In Germany, Holland and Belgium there is, of course, a quota of rain sodden pitches as well.

6. Britain has the greatest sporting traditions of any other nation. Agreed. Therefore the British sports fans are, or should be, the best informed, say on international football. True or false?

False. Britain is one of the very few countries without any specialised sports-paper which delivers information 24 hours after the event. In Italy, there are four daily sports papers! In other countries, at random, France, Hungary, Spain or Poland, they have at least one daily sports paper.

In West Germany there is an excellent twice-weekly *Kicker-Sport-magazin*, whilst Switzerland boast a superbly comprehensive *Sport* from Zurich, which appears three times a week. But the various British magazines, which rely heavily on photographic material, are unable to publish up to date facts and figures and are leaving it all to the national "dailies".

7. England's national team is handicapped by not being able to play enough matches. This restriction prevents the national manager from building a strong and consistently successful side. True or false?

False. In 1971, for instance, England played more internationals than any other country on the Continent. Only Scotland with 10 games, performed more often. England's 1971 record of nine matches, was equalled only by Russia, West Germany, Greece, Hungary and Sweden—out of a total of 33 nations affiliated to the European Football Union.

8. British people are known and respected for their placid, unruffled manner, for quiet and reserve. Therefore, the British sports commentators—on television for example—must surely be the calmest in Europe. True or false?

False. British TV-commentators are in fact, on the whole, the most agitated, temperamental and certainly more voluble than any of their Continental colleagues! They appear to be also unique in being permitted—with one or two exceptions—to deliver on TV a rapid, radio-style commentary.

After listening to television reporters on soccer, in Spain, France, Belgium, Holland, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Austria, Poland and Yugoslavia, I think I can state with some authority, that most of the British TV-commentators are more volatile than even the supposedly "excitable" Latins—especially the Italians whom I found, by comparison, models of calmness!

9. Britain is the only country in Europe—and in the world for that matter—allowed to enter four national teams for the World Cup. And of course for the European Championship, too. Britain can field three teams in the European Cup, four sides in the Cup-winners Cup and up to seven clubs in the UEFA-Cup. True of false?

True. It was one of the conditions before they re-joined FIFA in 1946, that the four Home countries should retain their identity and privileges at all levels of football. In addition, the British foursome hold exactly half the votes on the International Board, which is responsible for the rules and laws of the game. The British claim this prerogative, because, as they say "we invented the game".

Without wishing to be unkind, bearing in mind the spirit of Christmas, goodwill, etc., I find myself unable to resist this crack: Since Johann Gutenberg invented printing, shouldn't our newspapers be controlled by the Germans? Or by the same token—just because Marconi invented the radio, the BBC should be run by Italians . . .

Emlyn Hughes, one of the players chosen by Sir Alf Ramsey in his squad of players from Great Britain, Eire and Denmark to play against the Common Market countries at Wembley.

World Cup setback

BELGIUM

FAILURE to defeat neighbours Holland in the World Cup qualifying game in Antwerp was a setback for Belgium. In a match marred by over-physical attentions no goals were scored and only the Dutch seemed likely to break the deadlock.

The Belgians were without injured Bruges striker Raqul Lambert, and had his club colleague Johan Devrindt up front. Devrindt is joint top scorer in the championship with seven goals, a position he shares with Robby Rensenbrink the Dutchman at Anderlecht, but he was unable to score on this international outing.

Bruges are still leading the championship race but suffered a blow when Nico Rijnders, their Dutch midfield player, collapsed during the match with FC Liege while play was at the other end of the field and nobody was near him.

The referee left him for a minute before stopping play and it was only then that it was discovered that he had suffered a heart attack. Rijnders was rushed to hospital in time and though he appears to be over the worst, seems certainly lost to the game.

Bruges are planning a benefit tournament for Rijnders with his former Dutch clubs Ajax, Go Ahead and NAC Breda taking part, too.

The traditional battle between the Belgian giants Anderlecht and Standard Liege went 3—2 to the former who twice took the lead and were pulled back on both occasions until Rensenbrink settled it.

But chief interest surrounded the debut for Anderlecht of 17 year old youth international Ludo Coeck a capture from Berchem Sport. Trainer Georges Kessler had no hesitation in giving him this exacting baptism and was rewarded by a mature performance from the youngster highlighted by him scoring the first goal.

Could this be another Paul Van Himst in the making?

BENFICA CHALK UP TWELFTH WIN

PORTUGAL

AFTER twelve successive wins, Benfica are still Europe's most virulent League team. With 55 goals for and only five conceded, the Eagles of Lisbon are flying high indeed.

But everything in the Estoril garden is far from rosy. Manager Jimmy Hagan is under fire after the humiliation of defeat by Derby County in the European Cup. His critics are of the opinion that as an Englishman himself he should have known what to expect from an English side. And a recent trip to his home country for an operation heightened the discontentment.

All that the club have said is that his contract does not expire until July 31 and he will certainly stay to see that out. But with Benfica's reputation for getting through managers like other people use handkerchiefs he could be on the move next summer.

Goal-ace Eusebio has slowed down his scoring rate dramatically but he has missed a couple of games with injury. And with only 17 from 12 matches he will probably not now break any records this season after all.

In fact in the away game with Guimaraes it was left to youngster Vitor Martins to get the brace which sank the home side by the odd goal in three.

Benfica's eternal rivals Sporting Club had a rude shock after a mini-revival going down 1—0 at home to CUF from a seventh minute goal from Monteiro and this has not improved Ronnie Allen's chances of keeping his job there when his contract ends.

And it seems that any danger to Benfica romping away with the title will come from second placed Belenenses who are quietly making a challenge six points behind the leaders.

Salonika lead

GREECE

PAOK Salonika have maintained their form to keep top place in the Greek First Division but can expect some stiff opposition from Olympiakos. The Piraeus club have two games in hand of the leaders and are only five points behind.

Recently they had an encouraging success against AEK Athens away from home which points to further progress along these lines. AEK were without goalkeeper Errea who was injured plus skipper Papaioannou out of favour with the management and were made to suffer.

Yves Trantafilos and Romain Arghirudis combined to open up the AEK defence and in the end Olympiakos ran out easy winners by 5—1.

The national team's 1—0 defeat in Belgrade against Yugoslavia was not a bad performance—only the result in this vital World Cup qualifying match was bad! After surviving an early battering, the Greeks were unlucky not to have returned with a vital point.

George Delikaris, captain of Olympiakos.

by BRIAN GLANVILLE

On the threshold of a century

Bobby Moore can look forward to winning his 100th England cap early in the New Year. Bobby Charlton's record of 106 international caps is obviously well within Moore's grasp and he could set a record for international appearances that will never be bettered.

A TRIBUTE TO ENGLAND CAPTAIN BOBBY MOORE

THERE seems little doubt now that injury permitting—and he is seldom injured—Bobby Moore will not only captain England's team in 1974, but will beat Bobby Charlton's record of 106 international caps. This season has been a splendid one for him. He has not only played with his customary, immense authority for England, but has often essayed a much more adventurous role for West Ham United, his club, moving out of defence to hit long, splendid passes, and even to score one or two spectacular goals.

Let me make my own position immediately clear. There is no doubt in my mind that Bobby Moore is a great player, one of the finest in the world, and probably the finest in his own, particular position of defensive wing-half. (He is not a sweeper; a term carelessly used in this country. The whole essence of it is that the defender, the *libero*, sweeps up whatever happens to make its way through his back four men. Moore plays laterally, not behind his colleagues.)

Moore-baiting has been a popular occupation for a long time. When he has a bad game, and of course he sometimes has them, howls of glee go up to the skies, as if a charlatan had been exposed. I remember particularly a Cup tie between Blackpool and West Ham, in which Tony Green turned Bobby Moore inside out, and Jimmy Meadows, a former England and Manchester City full-back then Blackpool's coach, insisted Moore had been exposed for the limited player he was.

Stamped

What perfect nonsense! Meadows was right when he said that a small, clever, quick turning player such as Green, who was told to play close up on Moore, would give him a hard time. What of it? It was Disraeli who wrote that the defects of great men are the consolation of dunces. For me, the final test of a great player is international football, and the final test of international football is a World Cup. I have been present at every one of Bobby Moore's World Cup matches for England, and feel that those of 1966 and even more, 1970, stamped him beyond dispute as a very great player indeed.

Conditions

He fully deserved to be voted Player of the 1966 World Cup, but his prowess in Mexico had, given the circumstances, to be seen to be believed. The conditions in themselves were dreadful enough, especially for a big heavy man; even if, like the Olympian Moore, he has such economy of effort and movement. The altitude was immense, setting problems of breathing and acclimatisation; the temperature sometimes rose to 98 degrees. And on top of all this, Moore had to endure the persecution and the thousand natural shocks of Bogota, that city of criminals and cripples, where "framing" prominent tourists is one of the national sports.

Uncertain

He had to go on to Quito in Ecuador knowing that the absurd and vicious charge of stealing that bracelet hung over his head, had to endure being cut off from the England party, put under house arrest, uncertain whether or not he would be permitted to play in Mexico; and knowing, if he were, that the eyes of the whole world would be beadily upon him.

Yet in Mexico, he played still better than in England four years earlier, in immensely more difficult conditions; not on the thick sward of Wembley in front of a cheerfully partisan crowd, shouting for England, but in intense heat, before Mexican crowds screaming for England to get beaten.

Cautious

Moore's detractors would reply that he survived because he has an extra skin, that he is a cold fish, who feels the buffets of fortune less than the rest of us. What evidence have they? Moore, it's true, is detached, withdrawn, self-absorbed, cautious. Further than that, I am not prepared to go. I do not think the human being was born who would not feel the pain and the pressures undergone by Moore in Bogotá.

I still think his performances, in Mexico, were astonishing.

Revolution bro in Dutch foo

Post-war survey . . . by Eric Batty

REMARKABLE progress has been made in many countries since the end of the 1939-45 war and particularly in Eastern Europe the game in many countries has been taken apart and completely re-organised. In Western Europe this process has only taken place in the Netherlands where, without the intervention of the state and even against the will of the KNVB the transition from true-blue amateurism to full professional has been made.

The results have been spectacular with both Feyenoord and Ajax taking both the European Cup and the World Club championship but in retrospect many of the pace-makers in the revolution that occurred in 1954 might well have regrets. In that year, encouraged by the progressive clubs in neighbouring Belgium, a group of Dutch teams tried without success to persuade the KNVB that the Dutch game needed professionalism.

League competitions

Finally, after talks had broken down completely, the rebels broke away from the FA to form their own independent league. Two years later the KNVB were forced to recognise that they had lost the battle—professionalism already existed and the KNVB's league competitions were proven second rate.

Peace was made at this stage though the compromise which limited the number of professionals and a maximum wage was never really adhered to. The KNVB struggled and protested but the leading clubs eventually proved too strong. In the end the Dutch FA was forced to recognise what had been common knowledge for some time . . . the Dutch had become full professionals.

As already intimated not all the revolutionaries have benefitted and some have been forced out of the *Ere Divisie* while others for economic reasons have had to amalgamate with neighbouring clubs in order to survive. One of the prime movers in the rebel league were Fortuna '54 who played at Geleen.

LEADING SCORER

Lenstra (SC Enschede)	34
Dillen (PSV Eindhoven)	43
Canjels (N.A.C. Breda)	32
Canjels (N.A.C. Breda)	34
Groot (H) (Ajax)	38
Groot (H) (Ajax)	41
Tol (Volendam)	27
Kerkhoffs (PSV Eindhoven)	22
Geurtsen (DWS Amsterdam)	28
Geurtsen (DWS Amsterdam)	23
Kruiver (Feyenoord) / Van der Kuijlen (PSV)	23
Cruyff (Ajax)	33
Kindvall (Feyenoord)	28
Kindvall (Feyenoord) / Van Dijk (FC Twente)	30
Van der Kuijlen (P.S.V.)	26
Kindvall (Feyenoord)	24
Cruyff (Ajax)	26

CHAMPIONSHIP SUCCESSES

Ajax	7
Feyenoord	5
Sparta	2
D.O.S. Utrecht / P.S.V. Eindhoven / D.W.S. Amsterdam	1

F.A. CUP VICTORIES

Ajax	6
Sparta	3
Feyenoord / Fortuna '54 / VV Venlo / Willem II / A.D.O. Den Hague	2
	1

		P	W	D	L	Goals F.A.	P
1945-46	Haarlem FC	Amateur regional leagues only and champions decided by play offs.					
1946-47	Ajax						
1947-48	B.V.V. Den Bosch						
1948-49	S.V.V.						
1949-50	Limburgia						
1950-51	P.S.V. Eindhoven						
1951-52	Willem II						
1952-53	R.C.H.						
1953-54	Eindhoven FC						
1954-55	Willem II						
1955-56	Sparta	34	18	10	6	60.38	46
1956-57	Ajax	34	22	5	7	64.40	49
1957-58	D.O.S. Utrecht**	34	19	9	6	84.52	47
1958-59	Sparta	34	20	11	3	83.30	51
1959-60	Ajax	34	22	6	6	109.44	50
1960-61	Feyenoord	34	24	5	5	100.40	53
1961-62	Feyenoord	34	20	10	4	88.35	50
1962-63	P.S.V. Eindhoven	30	17	8	5	67.38	42
1963-64	D.W.S. Amsterdam	30	19	5	6	58.28	43
1964-65	Feyenoord	30	21	3	6	77.30	45
1965-66	Ajax	30	24	4	2	79.25	52
1966-67	Ajax	34	26	4	4	122.34	56
1967-68	Ajax	34	27	4	3	96.19	58
1968-69	Feyenoord	34	26	5	3	73.21	57
1969-70	Ajax	34	27	6	1	100.23	60
1970-71	Feyenoord	34	26	5	3	82.24	57
1971-72	Ajax	34	30	3	1	104.20	63

Note: ** DOS Utrecht and SC Enschede finished level on points and played off for the championship: DOS Utrecht 1, SC Enschede 0

FA CUP FINALS

No competition			
Wageningen	0	D.W.V.	0*
Quick	1	Helmondia	1*
PSV Eindhoven	4	Haarlem FC	3
No competition			
Fortuna 54	4	Feyenoord	2
Sparta	4	Volendam	3
V.V. Venlo	4	A.D.O. The Hague	1
No competition			
Ajax	3	N.A.C. Breda	0
Sparta	1	D.H.C.	0
Willem II	3	A.D.O. The Hague	0
Fortuna 54	0	A.D.O. The Hague	0*
Feyenoord	1	Go Ahead	0
Sparta	1	A.D.O. The Hague	0
Ajax	2	N.A.C. Breda	1
A.D.O. The Hague	2	Ajax	1
Feyenoord	2	P.S.V. Eindhoven	0**
Ajax	2	P.S.V. Eindhoven	0
Ajax	2	Sparta	1***
Ajax	3	FC Den Haag	2

Notes: * First named team won on penalty kicks.
** Replay after 1—1 draw.
***Replay after 2—2 draw.

ught progress tball

BOTH AJAX AND FEYENOORD HAVE WON EUROPEAN CUP

At the time they were receiving considerable financial support from wealthy businessmen but being a small town team they dropped out of the limelight when the money supply dried up.

In Amsterdam, two clubs who figured briefly in the top division—Blauw-Wit and D.W.S. who were champions in 1964—recently amalgamated. Unable to face the competition alone they joined forces to become FC Amsterdam and for the moment at least they are still in the top class. Rotterdam still supports two successful clubs, Feyenoord and Sparta, but two other clubs, Xerxes and Excelsior, are struggling.

More powerful

The chief beneficiaries of the revolution have been Ajax and Feyenoord and it is significant that since 1964 no other club has managed to win the championship. With every day that passes these two clubs get wealthier and more powerful. When other clubs find good young players or import an unknown foreigner who makes good they can rarely afford to match the offers made by the two giants and inevitably the best players drift towards Ajax and Feyenoord.

Today only Sparta in Rotterdam; FC Twente (the result of an amalgamation in Enschede), PSV Eindhoven with the backing of the Phillips industrial giant and FC Den Haag can even hope to challenge the big guns of Amsterdam and Rotterdam. Even these clubs could eventually find themselves in trouble if they ever found themselves forced to live only from their gate receipts.

Wealthy chairman

There will perhaps always be challengers—clubs that persuade a wealthy businessman to back them but it seems unlikely that the grip of Ajax and Feyenoord will be challenged in the foreseeable future.

Strangely, the two clubs have completely differing backgrounds. Feyenoord on the one hand were a power long ago and built their superb 64,000 capacity stadium in the 1930's. Ajax on the other hand have come to the fore with the backing of their wealthy chairman Mr. Jaap Van Praag and though they often use Amsterdam's Olympic stadium for their most attractive matches, many of their bread and butter league games are played at their own little ground that cannot accommodate even 30,000.

Through the successes of Ajax and Feyenoord the Dutch game has become recognised as a world power but many people—with good cause—see the dominance of these two clubs as an inherent weakness that could in time bring disaster.

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Keeping fans round the world in touch...

THAT'S THE BBC TARGET

by PAUL WADE

FOOTBALL crowds in Britain today are used to hearing the excited bubble of overseas radio commentators at mid-week European Cup ties. Sitting at the front of the director's box, they usually start broadcasting half an hour before kick-off and only finish as the lights of the stadium go out.

But the sound of foreign commentary at West Ham or Crystal Palace on a Saturday afternoon—could that be Arabic?—causes astonishment. After all, who wants to know about British *league* matches in the Middle East or wherever? The answer is simple. Millions of people all round the world are desperately anxious to know what happens in English and Scottish League matches each week—and they are not all homesick sailors in the South Atlantic or pop groups touring the Far East.

What listeners in Britain may not realise is that at about 4.15 p.m. each Saturday a knob is turned in Bush House, London, and the voices of Maurice Edelston, Peter Jones, John Camkin and Bryon Butler are whisked around the world on the BBC World Service, eagerly awaited by Americans sipping their breakfast orange juice in California, West Indians having a mid-day meal in the Caribbean, Kenyans putting their feet up on a Saturday night, even night owls in Hong Kong who use the World Service "Saturday Special" sports programme as their very own late late show.

Classified results

Walk down Gibraltar's Main Street on a Saturday and the soft burble of radios tuned to "Saturday Special" blends with the chatter of tourists. In New Zealand, one passionate Leeds United fan leaps up at 2 a.m. on Sunday mornings to hear how Revie's men are doing. And if you want to check the classified results on the American West Coast, visit your friendly neighbourhood fish and chip shop. Instead of 'plaice and chips—50 cents' they chalk up the results as they come in from "Saturday Special".

Of course, there's more to "Saturday Special" than just football. Each Saturday Paddy Feeny cheerfully steers listeners through a choice ration of rugby, tennis, cricket and racing until up come the half-time soccer scores. From then on it's virtually football all the way. Commentary is followed by the running results and you would think Paddy was doing the running at times! Then come the classified results, plus Irish games, then a special bonus for overseas listeners, David Francey's commentary on part of Scotland's match of the day. Finally, a sequence of eye-witness reports and a comprehensive run down of the League Tables brings overseas sports fans' favourite show to an end.

Particular charisma

The popularity of British soccer is undoubtedly growing abroad—and BBC External Services listening figures prove it. Although the names of clubs like Arsenal have always had a particular charisma, the broadcasts about British soccer have created a sudden surge of interest in recent years. It's compounded when British clubs go on tour during the summer and far-flung fans can see their heroes in the flesh. Because these fans want more than hard facts and expert commentary "Saturday Special" has a guest spot that features top personalities and their clubs to give them a glimpse of the characters of the game—men like Bobby Moore and Joe Mercer, and teams like Manchester United.

Let's not give the impression that listeners to the BBC World Service rely on "Saturday Special" to keep them happy Monday to Saturday, three times a day, "Sports Roundup" does what it says and puts out a 15 minute bulletin of World Sports news, with British football a top priority. Brian Saunders' punchy Friday forecast followed by his brisk assessment of Saturday's matches is avidly listened to—and everyone looks forward "same time, same place" each week to his reports.

A more leisurely browse through the day's events is afforded by "Sports Review" which comes to the World Service from the expert team of reporters in Sports News at Broadcasting House—the team that puts out "Sports Report" on Radio 2. With European football, and British success now a regular mid-week feature, "Sport Midweek" on a Wednesday night (repeated twice so everyone in the world with a radio can hear it) brings commentary on all the big European clashes involving British clubs, plus results from the All-Continental ties so often ignored elsewhere in Britain.

And if all this is too much to digest, "Sportscall" on Sunday takes time to recap on the European situation and on who's done what in the World Cup so far—thanks to *World Soccer's* own enthusiast—Roger Macdonald.

But where does that Arabic commentator mentioned earlier fit into the picture? In real life Mussa Bishuty, along with Akram Saleh, covers a top League match once a month—not for the World Service, which broadcasts only in English, but in the BBC's Arabic Service. Most of the BBC's 40-strong foreign language services also reflect the goings on in British football in one way or another.

Let's face it—it's part of our way of life in Britain, and BBC's External Services are pledged to let people know how we live here. Naturally, events like the World Cup get special treatment when they occur—with extra bulletins, commentary times and reports. From time to time too, feature programmes acknowledge the popularity of football.

"This Soccer Business" gave an insight into modern game, while "The England Team" compiled by TV commentator Gerald Sinstadt, was a detailed preview of England's defence of the 1970 World Cup in Mexico.

But the unique contributions that the BBC makes on behalf of the world wide soccer public is best illustrated by an incident on Monday, May 8, 1972. The most exciting English League Championship for years was coming to it's climax. Derby County—champions-to-be—were on holiday in Majorca waiting for two key results.

They heard about Leeds' and Liverpool's failure while drinking in their hotel—thanks to the BBC World Service who were putting out a special commentary on the two games so that the rest of the World would know as soon as it happened that Clough's men from the Baseball Ground were now Britain's soccer champions.

Italy's plans

by PHILIP EVANS

MUCH was made recently of the defeat in Florence of an Italian representative side by the Belgians. Some newspapers even went so far as to give the impression that the match was a full international. In fact, not so. And even if the daggers come out rapidly whenever there is a chance to plunge them into the corpse of Italian football, this particular game was merely an inter-league affair between two depleniished and experimental sides.

We all know of what detachment the Italians are capable when they feel the stakes are too low. But twice in the next few weeks Italy play World Cup qualifying games against Turkey and if the results ought to be foregone conclusions, then some interesting questions may be posed.

It is in the Italian character to think in terms of blocs as far as team selection for the national squad is concerned. Cagliari win the championship and immediately are asked to provide the backbone for the national team. Inter do it the following year, and Corso comes close to being recalled. Last year—and thus this—it was Juventus, and again the policy deserves to come under the microscope.

The simple fact is that Spinosi is not playing as the best right back in Italy, Marchetti has yet to prove that he can play better than Facchetti, Capello is a player of enormous talent but perhaps not enormous enough, and Zoff has had a miserable time in goal this season, a seemingly endless chapter of mistaken handling and uncertain interventions.

Stopper

As if to contradict my argument, but rather to emphasise it, I should point out that the best stopper in Italy this season has been Morini—of Juventus! But the point is there: the man is playing well and deserves the recognition on personal merit.

Not that it will make the slightest difference, but I'd like to go on record as stating that for me the first person onto the paper would be Benetti. He can be mean and he can be unimaginative, but even on his less happy days he puts guts into the midfield of any team, and with Rivera playing so ethereally this season, his Milanese partnership with Gianni becomes paramount in importance. He may not pass a ball as accurately as Capello, and he may not see the play as clinically, but he always moves forward and is capable of scoring good goals.

It's good, at last, to see that Rivera and Mazzola can coexist. Or more to the point, it's good to see that other people think they can. For too long there has been too much nonsense spoken about Rivera's lack of effort in the national team, his inability to meld into patterns of play that are not of his devising. But who ever ordered a lead-plated Rolls-Royce (unless it was Al or one of his boys and for very base reasons). You don't take a player of Rivera's imagination and ask him to act as an infantryman. You give him the brief, you give him protection, you give him good strikers to fire the bullets home.

Riva will stay, and may stay long after any doubts have been weightily confirmed. Even on his off-days he can account for at least two defenders, and when he's on song, he can be so difficult. More than that, he has saved Valcareggi's face on too many occasions to be discarded out of hand. Dropped for the odd game, maybe; but the ghosts will always play their part.

And Chinaglia will stay, I suspect. For all Boninsegna's elan and bravura, the marriage with Riva seldom worked happily, and Chinaglia is a player who likes being prompted. Technically less dextrous than Anastasi, he has much more physical authority, more essential self-confidence.

Agroppi has taken well the chance he has been offered. But it remains to be seen whether he can make the *mediano* role his own, whether he has more skill and toughness than the Fiorentina pair, Scala and Orlandini—or even the enormously talented Esposito.

Discarded

But it's the defence that causes me most unease. Spinosi is a player of class, but not on the flanks, and man to man doesn't have to be centralised. And I still can't see why Facchetti was so brutally discarded, now playing better than ever and anyone.

As for Rosato, he will stay as long as he can play, a fighter to the last fibre of his body, always able to supersede physical disability with the right sort of attitude. I don't mean him to sound like a cripple, but he is slow on the turn, he is short of inches, he does lack what is known as presence.

Walter Franzot of Roma, Roberto Vernacchia and Giacomo Vianello of Atlanta, Giorgio Morini of Roma and Roma's goalkeeper Alberto Giulli pictured during an Italian league game.

Reputation was tarnished after Spurs encounter

THERE could have been no misinterpretation of the words used. Spurs Manager Bill Nicholson was quoted as saying: "Rapid were a disgrace. The dirtiest side I have seen in 30 years of football."

Thus the 1971-72 UEFA Cup matches between the teams ended with Spurs clear-winners both at home and away with a 5-0 aggregate scoreline, too. But it left the reputation of Rumanian football in tatters. Most of the trouble had come in the second leg with Rapid smarting from the beating they had taken at White Hart Lane by three clear goals.

But as a result of several of the incidents goalkeeper Necula Reducanu was banned for three matches for throwing the ball at the referee and full-back Ion Pop who was sent off was banned for a couple of games both the result of strict decisions by the Rumanian F.A.

It had been a tie of an unfortunate nature, quite out of character with the normal standards of Rumanian football—hard but not vicious. Perhaps it was a combination of factors, maybe it was the often explosive situation which occurs when the Eastern European pattern crosses that from the British Isles. It could have been the relative inexperience of the side as a whole in Europe, though this could not have been completely valid as it was their fourth appearance in one of the major European tournaments in five years and several of the side were experienced Rumanian internationals.

It was a pity because the club had achieved its best position in Europe having in this initial UEFA Cup contest beaten more than useful adversaries in Napoli (Italy) and Legia Warsaw (Poland) in the opening two rounds.

Performance

Napoli won their home leg 1-0 but Rapid were able to pull back the deficit and win the return in Bucharest by two goals to nil. In the second round they got away to a fine start beating Legia by four clear goals at home for their most convincing performance and only lost two of the goals in Poland.

The sole crumb of consolation for Rapid was that they eventually lost to Spurs the eventual winners of the UEFA Cup.

This season the Rumanians are in the Cup Winners Cup for the first time. It means that they have now competed in all four of the major European tournaments—Champions Cup, Cup Winners Cup, Fairs and UEFA Cups. Yet all this has been achieved in six seasons and their next tie in the Cup Winners Cup will only be their tenth.

They first entered Europe after winning the 1967 Rumanian championship, though there had been a brief flirtation with the Mitropa Cup in 1938. That was their initial title after the war period and they have not emulated this performance since. In the first round of the 1967-68 Champions Cup they met Trakia Plovdiv (Bulgaria) and lost the first leg away 2-0. They made a commendable job of pulling back the difference and went through on a 3-2 aggregate.

But the Italian champions Juventus proved more difficult. Rapid's opponents scored only once in the two legs but it was one more than the Rumanians could manage.

The following season Rapid entered the Fairs Cup and after a useful 3-1 lead from the first leg against OFK Belgrade (Yugoslavia), they crashed away from home 6-1 and went out.

They came back in 1969-70 season but were again dismissed in the first round losing both legs to Vitoria Setubal (Portugal) 3-1 and 4-1. Though they missed out in Europe during 1970-71 it was a useful season for them domestically as they finished second in the table, only one point behind the league leaders.

It was sufficient to earn them a ticket to the first UEFA Cup which ended in such ignominious circumstances. Yet up to that point it had been the club's most successful period.

Coach Marian Bazil had gathered a useful side under the captaincy of Nicolae Lupescu, a centre back who had appeared in World Cup matches in 1970. There were other established internationals in the Rapid ranks like goalkeeper Neculu Raducanu also noted for his clowning, centre forward Alexandru Neagu and midfield star Ion Dumitru.

Experienced

Of this bunch Lupescu at 30 was the oldest. Raducanu was 25, Neagu 23 and Dumitru only 21. Full-backs Ion Pop and Alexandru Boc were 24 and 25 respectively and Constantin Dinu in the middle line only 28. Dinu is not to be confused with his namesake, Cornel Dinu of Dynamo Bucharest.

Half-backs Gheorge Codrea (23) and Constantin Musat (22) kept the youthful image of the side and wingers Marian Petreanu (21) and Iordan Angelescu (25) could not have been described as over the hill either.

True forwards in the senior squad like Teofil Codreanu and Constantin Nasturescu at 30 and 28 respectively could be looked upon as more experienced, but reserve goalkeeper Adrian Ramureanu (25) and forward Daniel Ene (27) kept the average age of the first team squad down to a remarkable 25.

SOUTH AMERICAN ROUND-UP

● Continued from page 29

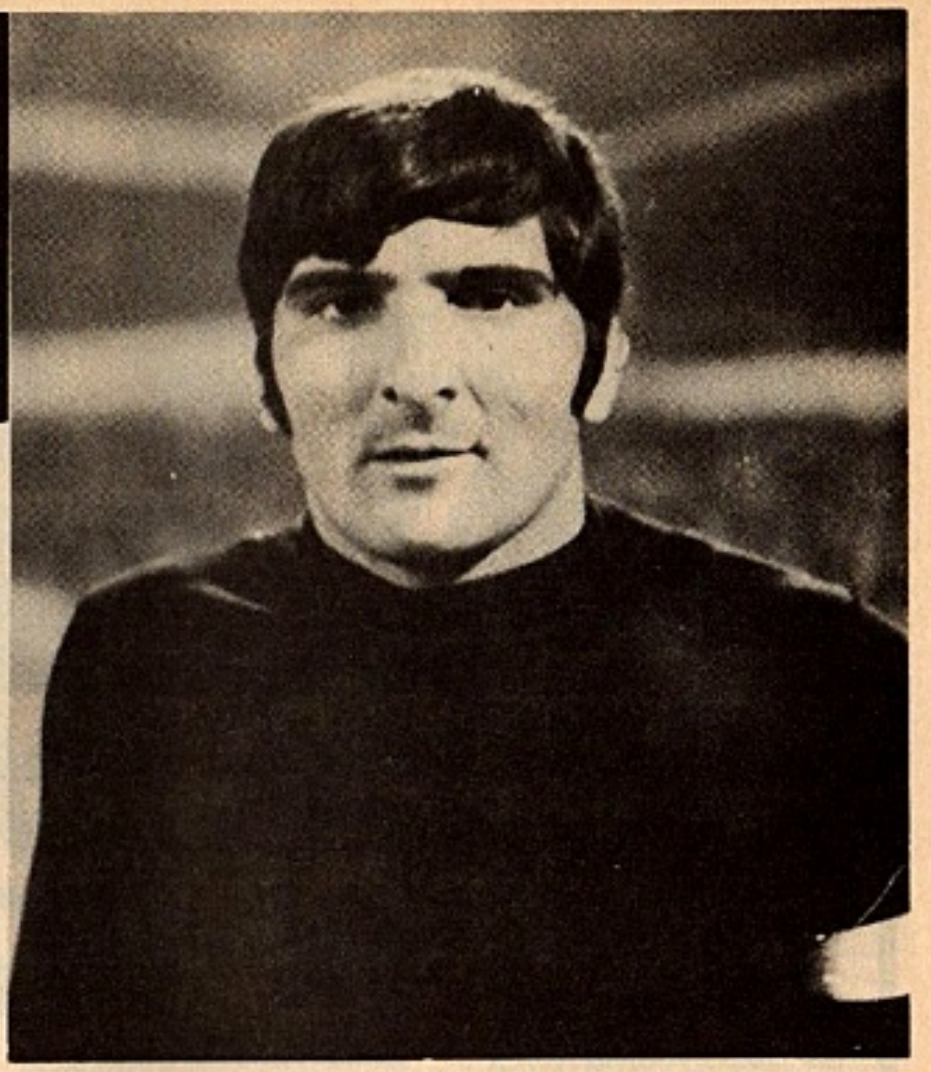
Brazil (National Championship): Group "A"—Vasco da Gama, America de Rio, San Paulo, Bahia, Sergipe 17 pts.; (6) Internacionale de P. Alegre 16. Group "B"— (1) Palmeiras, ABC 20; (3) Curitiba, Cruzeiro de B. Horizonte, Flamengo, Remo, Nautico 17. Group "C"—(1) Botafogo de Rio 21; (2) Corinthians, Atletico, Nacional, Portuguesa 17; (6) Santa Cruz 16. Group "D"—(1) America 21; (2) Santos 18; (3) Ceara, Fluminense, Vitoria, C. R. Brasil 17; (7) Gremio 16.

Venezuela (Torneo "Finalización"—Final placings): (1) Anzoategui 25 pts.; (2) Valencia, Galicia 21; (4) Estudiantes 20; (5) Portuguesa 14; (6) Italia, Portugués, Aragúa 11; (9) Canarias 10.

Paraguay (First Division): (1) Olimpia 33 pts.; (2) Cerro Porteño 31; (3) Sol de America 30; (4) Guarani 25; (5) General Caballero 18; (6) Sportivo Luqueño 17; (7) River Plate 16; (8) Libertad 15.

Peru (National Championship after 22 games): (1) Defensor Lima 33 pts.; (2) Alianza Lima 28; (3) Aurich 27; (4) Municipal, Universitario 26; (6) SIMA 25; (7) Sporting Cristal, Sport Boys 23; (9) At. Grau 22; (10) Torino 20; (11) Melgar 19; (12) León de Huanuco, Juan Galvez 18; (14) Manucci 16; (15) Tuman 15; (16) Defensor Arica 13.

Club Focus on RAPID BUCHAREST by JACK ROLLIN



Rapid goalkeeper Necula Reducanu.

But this current season has provided the club with a strange mixture of fortune. In Europe, as already mentioned, their progress has seen them safely through two hurdles of the Cup Winners Cup. In the Rumanian League they have fared less well, however.

Their qualification for the Cup Winners Cup came after they defeated Jiul Petrosani 2-0 in the final of the Rumanian Cup last season. It was their first post-war success in this competition, too.

Unhappily their performances in the championship have been sadly lacking the same initiative — certainly the opening matches were of this nature. Actually they went six matches without a win and the seventh only just got them off the bottom rung. After twelve matches they had less than a point a game and the goal average of nine for and eight against.

Namesakes

In Europe they had achieved better results of course. In the first round they beat the Swedish cup entrants Landskrona Boys taking a 3-0 lead on the home leg and losing only one goal away.

The second round paired them against Rapid of Vienna their namesakes from Austria. Rapid Bucharest drew 1-1 away and were able to go through comfortably by a 4-2 aggregate after a two goal margin of victory at home. For European Cup ties the club abandons its 20,000 capacity Julisti Stadium for the more spacious 23rd August ground.

While the form shown in the League has been disappointing it has given some of the younger members of the side a chance for establishing themselves as regulars.

Along these lines players like Vasile Stefan, Marin Stelian—scorer of two of the goals which beat Landskrona at home—and one of the marksmen against Rapid Vienna the young Krankl, have figured more prominently.

This year is an important one for the club. Founded in 1923 as the team of the railway workers, Rapid are therefore celebrating their half-centenary in 1973.

It appears that it is too late to retrieve anything but a middle of the table berth in the League, but Europe awaits their attention in the Cup Winners Cup in the hope that the unhappy memories of that infamous tie with Tottenham Hotspur can be erased completely.

It could not arrive at a more opportune time than the 50th anniversary of the founding of a railway club anxious not to go off the rails again.

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Joao Havelange, with Zagalo.

AXE FOR ZAGALO IN 1974?

HENNINGSEN: What of referees, and do you think two would be better?

HAVELANGE: I think referees do their best. But, as in Brazil, I would like to see professional referees, well paid. This encourages referees of high category and better social level. We have in Brazil referees who are students of law, professors of Physical Education, brokers and others who have big responsibilities in their normal jobs.

No, I am not in favour of two referees.

HENNINGSEN: Do you think the World Cup should be staged more often than at present. And do you think football should be retained in the Olympic Games?

HAVELANGE: No, I do not think the World Cup should be staged more often than every four years. But I would like to see the number of countries competing in the finals increased to 20—as in the Independence Cup. I think 20 nations is a good number.

I am against the continuation of football in the Olympic Games because it is a farce. I would like to see a world championship for players under the age of 20. This would give the youngsters round the world a boost and help the undeveloped countries with less professionalism. I have suggested this to the South American associations.

HENNINGSEN: Can you tell me about the CBD's plans for 1973 and 1974?

HAVELANGE: As you know, we

● Continued from page 13

have signed contracts to play 11 matches in Africa and Europe next year—the first step in our preparation to retain the World Cup. We play first in Morocco and Tunisia to give the players a chance to adjust slowly to the time differentials between the continents.

We will hire a jet for the complete trip, so that players don't have to wait around at airports. I am proud to say that we never forget the little details and always try to make life as comfortable as possible for the players. I think in this way the CBD is a model to be copied.

Playing 11 matches in Africa and Europe will give us a good test for 1974. Also, we will have a chance to study some of our rivals and note the progress of European soccer. We want to win these matches, but it is in our calculations to lose. But we have played 35 matches without losing.

HENNINGSEN: Will there be changes if the team should lose?

HAVELANGE: No, I don't think I should change anything because our Technical Commission worked very well in the Mexico World Cup and in the Independence Cup, and against Argentina and Chile in the Roca and O'Higgins Cups.

But, yes I advise Zagalo, Chirol, Parreiras, Coutinho and the other members, like the doctor, that 1974 is the end of their work. Even if they win, I think a manager, trainer and assistants should not stay in charge of a national team for too long.

We have the experience of 1966 with Feola and Amaral, so we are not going to make the same mistake again. In 1966 in England we used players who were too old for such competition . . . and that was because the trainer and his assistants became too friendly with some of the older players.

HENNINGSEN: While travelling in Europe, I read that Brazil are candidates for staging the 1978 World Cup.

HAVELANGE: That is false and in reference to Brazil is a malice. Brazil and I are going to support Argentina, who have the stadia and conditions required.

The Independence Cup staged this year had nothing to do with the 1978 World Cup and was organised to celebrate the 150 years of Brazil's independence. But this does not mean that Brazil does not have the facilities to stage future World Cups.

Argentina also have the right facilities and I must also say that they have some fine football with magnificent players.

Rapid fare well

AUSTRIA

VIENNA is most unfortunately placed from a football viewpoint for there the disenchanted fans can watch televised games from Hungary, Czechoslovakia and their own channels. With club standards still depressed it is little wonder that the crowds continue to stay away from the grounds and with six First Division clubs in and around the city there seems no answer to the problems.

Already many clubs would have been forced to go into liquidation had it not been for the intervention of wealthy businessmen or the financial backing of industry but no one it seems is willing to gamble sufficient money on a full professional set-up to rival Europe's best—and no one can blame them.

Though still deep in debt, SC Rapid are faring quite well and third placed now are still in with a definite title chance. This was underlined when they beat league leaders Admira by 1-0 with a second half header from Geza Gallos, who is the only Austrian born player amongst the league's leading scorers.

Top spot is currently held by Lothar Emmerich, who figured on the left wing for West Germany in the 1966 World Cup final. Though he seems unable to express his talents to the full at top level, "Emmy" was top scorer in Belgium two years ago and could repeat the feat this season with Austria FC Klagenfurt. His current tally is 11 in 14 games, followed by Gallos of Rapid who has 9 to his credit.

Few clubs appear to have recognised yet that without public support they have to produce their own youngsters though one exception is the Wiener Sportklub. Champions in successive seasons not long ago, WSK have been forced to economise like everyone else and they recently showed the way by introducing an unknown 19-year-old Franz Welzl for their home match against Eisenstadt, who have the expensive ex-Rapid star and Danish cap Bjorne Bjerregard.

Welzl repaid his club's confidence by hitting their first hat-trick of the season.

The team to watch, however, if early pace-makers Admira falter, will probably be Linzer ASK with another Rapid cast-off Gustl Starek who, after a poor start, have picked up 17 points from their last 11 games and share the lead now.

ZARJA CANTER

RUSSIA

HAVING just clinched the Russian league title as we went to press last month, Zarja Voroschilovgrad cantered through their remaining matches which were highlighted for the struggle for second and third places.

Zarja's first match as the new champions drew a 38,000 crowd for the visit of Torpedo Moscow and Zarja relaxed and confident put on a flourish.

All they had to show from an entertaining performance was a solitary goal from Victor Kouznetzov, their right winger who plays in midfield, and late in the game Torpedo snatched a goal to draw 1-1.

Next time out Zarja were beaten at home 1-0 by Dynamo Minsk and ended the campaign with two games in three days, drawing 1-1 away to Spartak before putting on a really first class performance in a highly entertaining match against Dynamo Kiev that ended all square at 3-3.

Zarja have yet to prove themselves more than a flash in the pan but clearly the game in Moscow is at a low ebb. Critics blame too many facilities for youngsters to participate in other sports and too many other diversions for the public, but one thing is clear—Muscovites have lost interest in the brand of football they are being offered.

More important perhaps, whereas a few years ago the big Moscow clubs could claim success even if they were negative and concerned only with results they have now been put firmly in their place.

During the final run-in to the climax of the campaign, ZSKA—the leading Moscow club, second most of the way—faltered and at the finish the top four places were occupied by provincial clubs.

Zarja were five points clear, followed by six clubs with only two points between them but Dynamo Kiev, who came with a late challenge, took second place, followed by Dynamo Tbilissi and Ararat of Jerevan.

ZSKA were fifth with Zenith Leningrad 7th and Torpedo, Dynamo Moscow and Spartak in that order from 9th to 11th. Lokomotive Moscow, relegated after only one season in the top class robbed ZSKA with the runners up spot by beating them 2-1.

Zarja Voroshilovgrad, back row left to right: Alexander Oleinik (doctor), Vyacheslav Semenov, Vladimir Belousov, Anatoly Shulzhenko, Alexander Zhuravlev, Mikhail Forkash, Valery Kopiy, Herman Zonin (snr. coach), Vyacheslav Izvekov, Nikolai Pinchuk, Yuri Vasenin, Vladislav Glukharev (coach). Sitting: Yuri Yeliseyev, Vladimir Starkov, Viktor Kuznetsov, Alexander Tkachenko, Anatoly Kuksov, Vladimir Malygin, Sergei Kuzbetsov, Vladimir Abramov, Vladimir Onishchenko.

Classified results ... European details ... league tables ... Classified

ALBANIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dinamo	7	5	1	1	9	1	11
Besa	6	4	2	0	13	4	10
Vlaznija	5	3	2	0	14	6	8
Partizan	6	2	3	1	8	3	7
Skenderbeu	6	2	3	1	3	4	7
Flamurtari	7	3	1	3	17	13	7
Luftetari	7	2	3	2	4	4	7
Traktori	7	3	1	3	6	7	7
Labinoti	7	1	3	3	3	7	7
Lokomotiva	6	1	3	2	4	6	5
Beselidhja	7	0	5	2	2	5	5
Shkendija	7	1	3	3	6	11	5
17th Nendori	7	2	1	4	5	11	5
Apolonia	7	0	1	6	4	19	1

ALGERIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
N.A.A.H.D.	10	5	5	0	11	3	25
U.S.M. Bel-Abbes	10	6	2	2	17	9	24
M.C. Alger	10	6	1	3	21	11	23
J.S.K.	10	3	5	2	14	12	22
M.C. Oran	10	5	1	4	12	10	21
M.O. Constantine	10	5	1	4	12	10	21
N.A.R. Alger	10	5	0	5	17	12	20
Annaba	10	4	2	4	11	12	20
E.S. Setif	10	4	1	5	9	10	19
C.S. Constantine	10	3	3	4	10	12	19
J.S.M. Tiaret	10	3	3	4	9	11	19
Mascara	10	2	5	3	9	12	19
A.S.M. Oran	10	4	1	5	11	17	19
C.R. Belcourt	10	2	1	7	6	17	15
C.R. Jijel	10	1	2	7	7	18	14

ARGENTINA

Group A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
River Plate	7	6	1	0	27	10	13
San Lorenzo	7	6	1	0	17	2	13
Independiente	7	3	3	1	15	7	9
San Martin Mendoza	7	4	1	2	15	10	9
Velez Sarsfield	7	4	1	2	12	10	9
Rosario Central	7	3	2	2	12	9	8
Atlanta	7	2	3	2	9	7	7
Lanus	7	3	1	3	8	11	7
San Lorenzo	7	3	0	4	7	17	6
Bartolome Mitre	7	1	1	5	6	12	3
Gimnasia y Esg.	7	1	1	5	6	16	3
Ind. Tuie	7	0	2	5	5	21	2
San Martin	7	0	1	6	3	14	1

Group B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Boca Juniors	7	6	0	1	20	8	12
Huracan	7	4	2	1	15	10	10
Colon Santa Fe	7	4	2	1	10	10	10
Belgrano	7	3	3	1	12	8	9
Gimnasia Mendoza	7	2	4	1	12	9	8
Racing	7	4	0	3	8	7	8
Defensores	7	2	4	1	7	8	8
Banfield	7	2	3	2	12	12	7
Ferrocarril	7	1	3	3	8	11	5
Chacarita	7	1	3	3	7	8	5
Argentinos	7	1	3	3	9	11	5
Estudiantes	7	0	4	3	3	7	4
Newell's Old Boys	7	0	1	6	5	16	1

AUSTRIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Linzer ASK	14	7	5	2	27	12	19
Admira Wacker	14	7	5	2	14	6	19
Rapid	14	7	4	3	22	13	18
VOeEST Linz	13	7	3	3	23	14	17
Swar. Innsbruck	14	7	3	4	19	11	17
Wiener Sportklub	14	6	4	4	18	21	16
Grazer AK	14	5	5	4	20	12	15
FK Austria	14	6	3	5	22	16	15
Austria Salzburg	14	6	3	5	17	13	15
Austria Klagenfurt	14	7	1	6	18	17	15
Alpine Donawitz	13	5	5	3	15	15	15
Eisenstadt	14	5	2	7	15	16	12
Vienna	14	3	4	7	15	26	10
Sturm Graz	14	3	3	8	10	23	9
Wiener Neustadt	14	1	4	9	12	31	6
Vorwaerts Bregenz	14	1	2	11	8	29	4

BELGIUM

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FC Bruges	11	8	2	1	26	10	18
Anderlecht	11	6	2	3	18	11	14
Lierse SK	11	5	4	2	18	16	14
Beerschot	11	6	1	4	19	15	13
Standard Liege	11	5	3	3	15	10	13
CS Bruges	11	5	3	3	13	15	13
Racing White	11	3	7	1	10	5	13
Beringen	11	4	4	3	11	13	12
Antwerp	11	5	1	5	14	11	11
FC Liege	11	4	3	4	8	10	11
Malines	11	3	5	3	15	13	11
Berchem	11	3	3	5	8	11	9
St Trond	11	1	5	5	6	11	7
Union St Gilloise	11	1	5	5	5	14	7
Crossing	11	1	4	6	6	13	6
Diest	11	1	2	8	9	25	4

BRAZILIAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Group A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Internacional	20	7	11	2	21	16	25
Vasco da Gama	21	9	7	5	21	14	25
Sao Paulo	21	9	5	7	34	26	23
America (GB)	21	7	8	6	18	19	22
Bahia	21	6	10	5	12	13	22
Sergipe	21	2	4	15	11	30	8

Group B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Palmeiras	21	12	6	3	30	12	30
Cruzeiro	21	11	7	3	32	15	29
Curitiba	21	10	8	3	27	13	28
Remo	21	5	12	4	18	16	22
Flamengo	21	8	6	7	14	17	22
Nautico	21	6	7	8	25	28	19
ABC	21	4	6	11	16	25	14

Group C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Corinthians	21	9	9	3	23	19	27
Atletico	21	9	4	8	25	20	22
Botafogo	21	6	9	6	27	24	21
Santa Cruz	21	6	8	7	27	32	20
Nacional	21	3	9	8	19	23	16
Portuguesa	20	3	6	11	20	28	12

Group D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Santos	21	9	8	4	24	17	26
Ceara	21	7	10	4	24	20	24
Fluminense	21	8	6	7	20	19	22
Gremio	21	7	7	7	17	15	21
Vitoria	21	5	9	7	9	20	19
America (MG)	21	2	10	9	12	23	14
Brasil	21	1	9	11	16	37	11

BULGARIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CSKA Sofia	13	8	3	2	33	16	19
Lokomotiv Plovdiv	13	7	3	3	29	16	17
Akademik	13	7	2	4	27	14	16
Levski Spartak	13	6	4	3	22	10	16
Slavia	13	6	4	3	15	9	16
Spartak Pleven	13	7	1	5	25	20	15
Lokomotiv Sofia	13	6	2	5	14	20	14
Pernik	13	3	7	3	11	17	13
Beroe Stara Zagora	13	5	2	6	18	15	12
Thrakia	13	5	2	6	17	17	12
Yambol	13	5	2	6	17	20	12
Etar	13	4	4	5	17	21	12
Dounav	13	4	4	5	9	18	12
Tchernomore	13	4	3	6	21	26	11
Tchernomoretz	13	5	1	7	14	19	11
Botev	13	4	3	6	15	24	11
ESK Spartak	13	2	4	7	10	24	8
Volov	13	2	3	8	10	18	7

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spartak Trnava	15	7	7	1	22	9	21
Tatran Presov	15	9	3	3	21	12	21
ZVL Zilina	15	9	1	5	27	15	19
VSS Kosice	15	7	3	5	23	13	17
Lokomotiv Kosice	15	7	2	6	21	21	16
Dukla Prague	15	5	5	5	15	13	15
Sparta Prague	15	6	3	6	23	24	15
AC Nitra	15	7	1	7	18	20	15
Slovan Bratislava	15	5	5	5	14	15	15
Spartak Kralove	15	6	3	6	13	25	15
Union Teplice	15	5	3	7	17	15	13
Skoda Plzen	15	5	3	7	19	22	13
TZ Trinec	15	5	6	6	9	16	12
Zbrojovka Brno	15	3	5	7	21	26	11
Banik Ostrava	15	4	3	8	13	20	11
Slavia	15	3	5	7	12	19	11

EAST GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dynamo Dresden	11	8	3	0	23	9	19
Carl Zeiss Jena	11	7	2	2	19	10	16
Dynamo Berlin	11	5	4	2	22	14	14
Magdeburg	11	5	2	4	17	12	12
Karl-Marx-Stadt	11	5	2	4	11	15	12
Wismut Aue	11	5	1	5	13	14	11
Sachsenring	11	4	2	5	16	17	10
Lokomotiv Leipzig	11	4	1	6	27	19	9
Vorwaerts Frankfurt	11	3	3	5	18	18	9
Chemie Leipzig	11	2	5	4	8	8	9
Hansa Rostock	11	3	3	5	14	19	9
Chemie Halle	11	3	3	5	16	25	9
Union Berlin	11	3	2	6	7	19	8
Rot-Weiss Erfurt	11	3	1	7	14	26	7

EIRE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Finn Harps	7	6	1	0	17	8	13
Waterford	7	6	0	1	21	4	12
Shamrock Rovers	7	5	1	1	9	2	11
Cork Celtic	7	4	0	3	13	13	8
Limerick	7	3	1	3	10	9	7
Cork Hibs	6	2	2	2	9	5	6
Bohemians	6	2	2	2	4	6	6
St Patricks	6	2	2	2	8	12	6
Athlone Town	7	3	0	4	7	10	6
Drumcondra	7	2	2	3	7	13	6
Drogheda	6	0	4	2	3	8	4
Shelbourne	7	2	0	5	10	11	4
Dundalk	7	1	1	5	2	8	3
Sligo Rovers	7	1	0	6	5	16	2

EGYPT

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mehalla	7	6	1	0	16	2	13
Nacional	7	5	1	1	13	4	11
Zamalek	7	3	4	0	8	2	10
Ismaili	7	4	1	2	11	4	9
Arsenal	7	4	1	2	9	8	9
Alex Recreation	7	2	3	2	9	10	7
Canal	7	2	3	2	2	4	7
Olympic	7	2	2	3	6	8	6
Damietta	7	1	4	2	4	6	6
Almisri	7	2	0	5	4	10	4
Aviation	7	0	2	5	2	11	2
Plastic	7	0	0	7	2	17	0

FINLAND (Final)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Turun Palloseura	22	15	1	6	44	19	31
Mikkelin Palloilijat	22	11	8	3	42	22	30
Lahden Reipas	22	12	4	6	45	30	28
Kuopion Palloseura	22	12	2	8	37	31	26
Kokkolan Pallo-V	22	9	7	6	35	31	25
Lahti 69	22	10	5	7	39	39	25
Kuopion Pallotor	22	8	5	9	32	36	21
Tampellan Palloilijat	22	8	5	9	27	33	21
Helsing. Jalpalloklub	22	10	1	11	24	32	21
Helsingin IFK	22	7	3	12	39	44	17
Vaasan Palloseura	22	4	6	12	20	36	14
Valkeakosken Haka	22	2	1	19	17	51	5

FRANCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nice	16	12	2	2	41	18	26
Nantes	16	8	5	3	26	16	21
Marseille	16	9	2	5	20	12	20
Nimes	16	8	3	5	19	15	19
Angers	16	8	2	6	26	21	18
Nancy	16	7	4	5	21	18	18
Lyon	16	7	4	5	23	23	18
St Etienne	16	6	5	5	24	21	17
Metz	16	6	5	5	22	27	17
Bastia	16	6	4	6	24	16	16
Rennes	16	7	2	7	23	21	16
Sochaux	16	7	2	7	23	25	16
Strasbourg	16	4	7	5	19	26	15
Bordeaux	16	4	6	6	21	22	14
Reims	16	5	4	7	15	21	14
Ajaccio	16	5	3	8	20	26	13
Sedan	16	5	2	9	20	32	12
Valenciennes	16	4	3	9	14	26	11
Red Star	16	3	4	9	11	24	10
Paris FC	16	3	3	10	17	29	9

GREECE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PAOK Salonika	9	8	1	0	20	6	26
Panathaiki	9	6	3	0	15	2	24
Panionios	9	5	4	0	14	4	23
Panathinaikos	8	6	1	1	20	7	21
Olympiakos	7	6	0	1	23	2	19
Kavala	9	3	2	4	11	10	17
Ethnikos	9	3	2	4	9	11	17
Aris	9	2	4	3	5	8	17
Atromitos	9	2	4	3	3	9	17
AEK Athens	7	3	3	1	7	7	16
Aigaleo	9	2	3	4	7	18	16
Kalamata	9	1	4	4	6	11	15
Panseraikos	9	1	4	4	6	14	15
Iraklis	8	2	2	4	10	13	14
Olympiakos Volos	8	2	2	4	5	15	14
Fostir	9	1	2	6	4	13	13
Omonia	8	1	2	5	8	17	12
Trikala	9	1	1	7	3	13	12

HOLLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ajax	14	12	0	2	50	7	24
Feyenoord	14	11	2	1	34	7	24
Twente	14	10	1	3	20	10	21
Sparta	14	8	3	3	36	13	19
MVV	14	7	3	4	23	13	17
Den Haag	14	6	4	4	21	18	16
Amsterdam	14	6	3	5	22	19	15
NEC	14	5	4	5	16	19	14
PSV Eindhoven	14	5	3	6	17	18	13
Utrecht	14	5	3	6	18	24	13
Telstar	14	5	2	7	16	22	12
NAC	14	4	4	6	14	21	12
Haarlem	14	4	3	7	15	19	11
Go Ahead	14	3	4	7	15	24	10
AZ 67	14	4	2	8	17	31	10
Groningen	14	1	6	7	11	27	8
Den Bosch	14	2	3	9	6	30	7
Excelsior	14	1	4	9	5	34	6

HUNGARY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ferencvaros	12	8	2	2	28	15	18
Ujpest Dozsa	12	8	1	3	26	8	17
Honved	12	6	4	2	26	12	16
Raba ETO	12	7	1	4	24	17	15
Vasas	12	6	2	4	21	16	14
MTK Budapest	12	4	6	2	16	13	14
Tatabanya	12	5	3	4	14	14	13
Zalaegerszeg	12	3	2	5	16	13	12
Videoton	12	5	2	5	19	17	12
Csepel	12	3	6	3	18	16	12
Szeged	11	3	4	4	13	19	10
Salgotarjan	12	4	1	7	17	24	9
Egyetertes	12	3	3	6	10	23	9
Komlo	12	1	5	6	10	27	7
Pecs	11	1	4	6	7	16	6
Dunayar	12	1	4	7	8	23	6

ITALY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lazio	8	5	3	0	10	4	13
Inter-Milan	8	5	2	1	9	3	12
AC Milan	8	4	3	1	21	10	11
Fiorentina	8	3	4	1	11	8	10
Torino	8	4	1	3	10	6	9
Juventus	8	2	5	1	11	8	9
Roma	8	3	3	2	11	9	9
Napoli	8	3	2	3	7	5	8
Ternana	8	2	3	3	6	7	7
Cagliari	8	1	4	3	7	9	6
Verona	8	1	4	3	6	8	6
Bologna	8	2	2	4	5	10	6
Atalanta	8	1	4	3	5	12	6
Palermo	8	2	2	4	3	12	6
Sampdoria	8	0	5	3	2	6	5
Vicenza	8	1	3	4	2	9	5

results ... European details ... league tables ... Classified results ..

LUXEMBOURG

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Jeunesse D'Esch	11	8	2	1	35	10	18
Rumelingen	11	5	5	1	17	9	15
Aris Bonneweg	11	5	4	2	16	13	14
Red Boys	11	6	2	3	20	17	14
Pola Esch	11	5	3	3	26	14	13
Union Luxembourg	11	4	3	2	24	21	13
Etzella	11	4	4	3	24	24	12
Avenir	11	4	1	6	17	25	9
The National	11	3	2	6	16	16	8
Spora	11	2	2	7	9	20	6
Tetingen	11	2	1	8	12	33	5
Sporting	11	2	1	8	11	35	5

MOROCCO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fes	9	6	2	1	13	6	23
W.A.C.	9	5	3	1	12	7	22
Kenitra	9	4	5	0	13	8	22
El Jadida	9	5	2	2	10	5	21
F.A.S.	9	4	2	3	11	10	19
F.U.S.	9	2	5	2	7	7	18
Oujda	9	4	1	4	8	10	18
Khouribet	9	2	4	3	7	7	17
Mohammedia	9	3	2	4	12	13	17
A.D.M.	9	2	3	4	7	7	16
Settat	9	2	3	4	8	9	16
F.A.R.	9	1	5	3	9	11	16
Sidi Kacem	9	1	5	3	7	12	16
Beni Mellal	9	2	3	4	7	12	16
Raja	8	2	3	3	11	14	15
Youssoufia	8	2	0	6	6	12	12

POLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gornik Zabrze	13	7	4	2	15	5	18
Ruch Chorzow	13	7	4	2	17	8	18
Stal Mielec	13	5	6	2	22	13	16
Gwardia	13	6	4	3	17	11	16
Wisla	13	7	1	5	19	14	15
LKS Lodz	13	5	5	3	16	13	15
ROW Rybnik	13	4	5	4	11	13	13
Legia Warsaw	13	3	6	4	12	11	12
Zaglebie Sosnowiec	13	4	4	5	14	14	12
Lech	13	4	4	5	8	15	12
Zaglebie Walbrzych	13	4	2	7	14	20	10
Polonia	13	3	3	7	10	22	9
Pogon	13	2	4	7	10	16	8
Odra	13	1	6	6	9	19	8

PORTUGAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Benfica	12	12	0	0	45	5	24
Belenenses	12	7	4	1	24	15	18
Sporting	11	7	1	3	26	11	15
Setubal	12	6	2	4	30	11	14
CUF	12	6	2	4	17	16	14
Boavista	12	5	3	4	18	23	13
Guimaraes	12	5	2	5	21	18	12
Leixoes	11	5	2	4	9	15	12
Porto	12	4	3	5	17	14	11
Barreirense	12	4	3	5	20	24	11
Uniao Tomar	12	5	1	6	15	24	11
Montijo	12	3	3	6	12	18	9
Farense	12	1	5	6	11	26	7
Beira-Mar	12	2	3	7	8	28	7
Atletico	12	1	4	7	16	27	6
Uniao Coimbra	12	1	4	7	9	23	6

RUMANIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dinamo Bucharest	13	7	3	3	20	13	17
Steaua	13	6	4	3	23	11	16
Petrolul	13	6	4	3	11	8	16
Jiul	13	7	2	4	19	18	16
CFR Cluj	12	6	2	4	12	10	14
SC Bacau	12	6	2	4	15	14	14
Uni Craiova	13	4	6	3	21	18	14
Steagul Rosu	13	5	3	5	15	7	13
Rapid	13	4	5	4	12	8	13
UT Arad	13	4	5	4	16	15	13
Farul	13	5	2	6	8	13	12
Arges Pitesti	13	4	3	6	19	16	11
AS Armata	13	5	1	7	19	24	11
Uni Cluj	13	4	2	7	12	25	10
CSM Resita	13	2	5	6	11	19	9
Sp. Studentesc	13	2	3	8	12	26	7

RUSSIA (Final)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Zarja Voroschilovgrad	30	15	10	5	52	30	40
Dynamo Kiev	30	12	11	7	32	38	35
Dynamo Tbilisi	30	12	11	7	41	34	35
Ararat Erevan	30	12	10	8	38	29	34
CSKA Moscow	30	15	4	11	37	33	34
Dniepr Dniepropetrovsk	30	12	10	8	37	37	34
Zenit Leningrad	30	11	11	8	44	30	33
Dynamo Minsk	30	10	11	9	27	28	31
Torpedo Moscow	30	11	9	10	31	33	31
Dynamo Moscow	30	12	6	12	39	35	30
Spartak Moscow	30	8	10	12	29	30	26
SKA Rostov	30	8	10	12	31	35	26
Kairat Alma Ata	30	6	14	10	23	27	26
Karpaty Lvov	30	8	8	14	27	43	24
Lokomotiv Moscow	30	6	9	15	29	48	21
Neftchi Baku	30	6	8	16	28	55	20

SCOTLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Celtic	13	11	1	1	38	13	23
Hibernian	13	9	1	3	30	15	19
Rangers	13	8	2	3	23	14	18
Aberdeen	13	7	3	3	29	18	17
Hearts	13	8	1	4	23	14	17
Dundee United	13	8	0	5	23	20	16
East Fife	13	7	1	5	21	20	15
Dundee	13	5	4	4	18	16	14
Ayr United	13	5	4	4	18	19	14
Falkirk	13	2	7	4	15	17	11
Morton	13	3	4	6	21	25	10
Dumbarton	13	2	6	5	17	22	10
St Johnstone	13	3	4	6	19	24	10
Arbroath	13	3	4	6	17	26	10
Motherwell	13	3	4	6	17	28	10
Partick Thistle	13	4	1	8	15	22	9
Kilmarnock	13	2	2	9	16	35	6
Airdrie	13	1	3	9	14	28	5

SPAIN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barcelona	11	7	3	1	15	6	17
Espanol	12	5	7	0	19	8	17
Malaga	12	5	5	2	16	8	15
Zaragoza	12	5	5	2	18	11	15
Real Madrid	12	6	3	3	14	8	15
Atletico Madrid	12	6	3	3	17	11	15
Real Sociedad	12	6	2	4	13	11	14
Granada	12	3	6	3	8	11	12
Valencia	12	3	5	4	15	13	11
Atletico Bilbao	12	4	3	5	17	15	11
Gijon	11	4	2	5	11	10	10
Las Palmas	12	3	4	5	15	21	10
Coruna	12	2	5	5	8	19	9
Betis	12	2	5	5	11	14	9
Castellon	12	3	3	6	8	16	9
Burgos	12	3	3	6	12	21	9
Celta	12	2	4	6	10	16	8
Oviedo	12	2	4	6	12	20	8

SWITZERLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Basel	13	8	3	2	27	18	19
Grasshoppers	11	7	3	3	33	19	17
Lugano	13	6	4	3	14	14	16
Winterthur	13	5	5	3	23	13	15
Sion	13	6	3	4	19	19	15
Servette	11	6	2	5	20	15	14
Zurich	13	6	2	5	17	15	14
Chaux-de-Fonds	13	4	5	4	19	20	13
Lausanne	13	4	4	5	22	19	12
Young Boys	13	5	2	6	17	16	12
Chiasso	13	5	2	6	10	20	12
Fribourg	13	2	4	7	12	20	8
St. Gallen	13	3	2	8	14	25	8
Grenchen	13	2	3	8	9	23	7

TUNISIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Esperance	9	5	3	1	14	5	22
C.S. Sfax	9	5	3	1	19	9	22
C.O.T.	9	4	4	1	8	3	21
Club Africain	9	4	4	1	10	8	21
Etoile Sahel	9	5	1	3	17	10	20
C.A. Bizerta	9	4	3	2	8	7	20
E.M. Mahdia	9	3	4	2	10	6	19
Sfax R.S.	9	4	2	3	10	7	19
A.S. Marsa	9	3	3	3	8	9	18
J.S. Kairouan	9	3	2	4	9	10	17
U.S. Monastir	9	2	3	4	5	8	16
C.S. Hamman Lif	9	1	2	6	7	15	13
Stade Tunisien	9	1	1	7	4	11	12
U.S. Maghrebine	9	0	3	6	6	23	12

TURKEY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Eskisehir	10	6	3	1	17	6	15
Fenerbahce	10	5	4	1	15	6	14
Galatasaray	10	5	4	1	11	3	14
Bursa	10	3	6	1	7	4	12
Ankaragucu	10	4	4	2	9	7	12
Gozlepe	10	3	5	2	10	11	11
Boluspor	10	4	3	3	11	14	11
Mersin	10	3	4	3	10	9	10
Besiktas	10	1	8	1	5	5	10
Altay	10	3	3	4	8	7	9
Giresun	10	2	5	3	10	10	9
Samsun	10	2	5	3	10	12	9
R.T.T.	10	1	6	3	6	10	8
Adana	10	2	2	6	9	18	6
Vefa	10	1	3	6	5	9	5
Sekerspor	10	0	5	5	3	15	5

WEST GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bayern Munich	15	12	1	2	41	11	25
Fortuna Duesseldorf	15	8	5	2	33	22	21
Cologne	15	7	5	3	29	18	19
VfB Stuttgart	15	9	1	5	32	24	19
Wuppertaler	15	7	4	4	24	14	18
MSV Duisburg	15	6	5	4	23	15	17
Kaiserslautern	14	6	4	4	24	21	16
Kickers Offenbach	15	6	4	5	26	28	16
Eintracht Frankfurt	14	6	3	5	28	22	15
Moenchengladbach	14	7	1	6	29	29	15
VfL Bochum	15	6	2	7	21	19	14
Hannover 96	15	5	3	7	23	33	13
Werder Bremen	14	3	5	6	15	18	11
Hertha	15	4	3	8	21	35	11
Brunswick	14	4	1	9	11	23	9
Hamburger SV	15	2	5	8	21	27	9
Schalke 04	15	4	1	10	22	35	9
Rot-Weiss Oberhausen	14	3	1	10	15	34	7

YUGOSLAVIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Red Star Belgrade	14	10	3	1	30	7	23
Velez	14	7	6	1	22	10	20
Zeljeznicar	14	7	2	5	23	17	16
OFK Belgrade	14	6	4	4	19	15	16
Celik	14	6	4	4	17	16	16
Radnicki	14	7	2	5	14	13	16
Partizan	14	6	4	4	17	17	16
Sloboda	14	5	5	4	16	13	15
Sarajevo	14	6	3	5	20	20	15
Hajduk Split	14	6	1	7	21	17	13
Borac	14	4	5	5	10	8	13
Bor	14	4	4	6	10	19	12
Olimpija	14	4	3	7	15	16	11
Vojvodina	14	4	3	7	18	20	11
Spartak	14	4	3	7	15	22	11
Sutjeska	14	4	2	8	12	22	10
Dinamo	14	3	3	8	9	22	9
Vardar	14	3	3	8	10	24	9

NOVEMBER 25

Malta (0) 0
Austria (0) 2 (Kogelberger, Spinteri o.g.)

Malta: Debono I; Chiantar, Darmanin, Spiteri, Debono II, Micallef, Vassallo, Cocks (Griffa), Camilleri, Arpa, Xuereb.
Austria: Stachowicz; Sara, Schmidradner, Eigenstiller (Hof), Pumm, Hickersberger, Starek, Gallos, Kogelberger, Parits, Jara.

NOVEMBER 19

Yugoslavia (1) 1 (Acimovic)
Greece (0) 0

Yugoslavia: Maric; Krivokuca, Stepanovic, Pavlovic, Pasunovic, Holcer, Petkovic, Vladic, Acimovic, Bajevic (Bjekovich), Dragic.
Greece: Christidis; Dimitria, Agelis, Glaus, Syokos, Eleftherakis, Koudas, Sarafis, Delakaris, Papaloannou, Christokopoulos (Antoniadis).

Cyprus (0) 0
Bulgaria (3) 4 (Michailov, Bonev, Denev 2)

Cyprus: Alkiviades; Katios, Theodorou, Stavros, Kallis (Leonidas), Melis (Efthymiades), Stefanis, Charalampos, Stylianou, Koudas, Kaifas.
Bulgaria: Filipov; Zafirov, Stankov, Ionotov, Kolev, Ilanchev, Kirov (Vassilev), Bonev, Michailov (Dimitrov), Stojanov, Denev.

Belgium (0) 0
Holland (0) 0

Belgium: Piot; Heylens, Thissen, Vandendaele, Dewaiqus, Dockx, Van Moer (Verheyen), Martens, Semmeling, Van Himst, Devrindt.
Holland: Van Beveren; Manswelt, Suurbier, Hulshoff, Krol, De Jong, Neeskens, Van Hanegem, Brokamp, Cruyff, Keizer.

Wales (0) 0
England (1) 1 (Bell)

Wales: Sprake; Rodriguez (Reece), Thomas, Hennessey, England, Hockey, Phillips, Mahoney, Davies, Toshack, James.
England: Clemence; Storey, Hughes, Hunter, McFarland, Moore, Ball, Bell, Chivers, Marsh, Keegan.

Scotland (1) 2 (Dalglish, Lorimer)
Denmark (0) 0

Scotland: Harvey; Brownlie, Donachie, Brennan, Colquhoun, Buchan, Lorimer, Dalglish (Carr), Harper, Graham, Morgan.
Denmark: Therkildsen (Hildebrandt); Rontved, Ahlberg, Hansen, Munk Jensen, Bjerre, Olsen, Kristensen (Laudrup), Michaelsen, Jensen (B), Le Fevre.

Eire (1) 2 (Conroy, Treacy)
France (0) 1 (Larque)

Eire: Kelly; McCarville, Kinnear, Mulligan, Holmes, Hand, Byrne, Treacy, Giles (Campbell), Conroy, Givens.
France: Carnus; Tresor, Broisart, Rostagni, Quittet, Adams, Huck, Larque, Loubet, Revelli, Berta.

West Germany (2) 5 (Muller 4, Netzer)
Switzerland (0) 1 (Kunzli)

West Germany: Maier, Hottges, Beckenbauer, Schwarzenbeck, Breitner, Wimmer (Vogts), Netzer, Hoeness, Heynckes, Muller, F, Kremers (Grips).
Switzerland: Prosperi; Ramseier, Mundschin, Guyot, Stierli (Demarmels), Odermatt, Kuhn, Hasler, Balmer, Muller, Jeandupeux (Kunzli).

Norway (0) 0
Belgium (0) 2 (Dolmans pen, Lambert)

Norway: Antonsen; Meirik, Pettersen, Soydevold, Akaker, Borsne, Berg, Haas (Johansen), Hestad (Birkeland), Toe Fuglset, Jan Fuglset.
Belgium: Piot; Heylens, Vandendaele, Thissen, Dolmans (Martens), Dockx, Pelkmans, Verheyen, Semmeling, Lambert (Teugels), Van Himst.

WORLD CUP 1974

AFRICA

First preliminary round

Group 1

19.11.72 Morocco 0, Senegal 0
3.12.72 Senegal 1, Morocco 2

Group 2

2. 3.72 Algeria 1, Guinea 0
12. 3.72 Guinea 5, Algeria 1

Group 3

8.12.72 AR Egypt 2, Tunisia 1
17.12.72 Tunisia v. AR Egypt

Group 4

15.10.72 Sierra Leone 0, Ivory Coast 1
29.10.72 Ivory Coast 2, Sierra Leone 0

Group 5

16. 7.72 Kenya 2, Sudan 0
23. 7.72 Sudan 1, Kenya 0

Group 6

Mauritius v. Madagascar
Madagascar v. Mauritius
Madagascar withdrew

Group 7

25.11.72 Ethiopia 0, Tanzania 0
3.12.72 Tanzania 1, Ethiopia 1
Play-off Ethiopia 3, Tanzania 0

Group 8

30. 4.72 Lesotho 0, Zambia 0
4. 6.72 Zambia 6, Lesotho 1

Group 9

5. 8.72 Nigeria 2, Congo Brazza. 1
15. 8.72 Congo Brazza. 1, Nigeria 1

Group 10

18. 6.72 Dahomey 0, Ghana 5
2. 7.72 Ghana 5, Dahomey 1

Group 11

6. 6.72 Togo 0, Zaire 0
20. 6.72 Zaire 4, Togo 0

Group 12

Cameroons v. Gabon
Gabon v. Cameroons
Gabon withdrew

CONCACAF

First preliminary round

Group 1

20. 8.72 Canada 3, USA 2
24. 8.72 Canada 0, Mexico 1
29. 8.72 USA 2, Canada 2
3.10.72 Mexico 3, USA 1
6.10.72 Mexico 2, Canada 1
10.10.72 USA 1, Mexico 2

Group 2

3.12.72 Guatemala v. El Salvador
10.12.72 El Salvador v. Guatemala

Group 3

3.12.72 Honduras 2, Costa Rica 1
10.12.72 Costa Rica 3, Honduras 3

Group 4

11. 6.72 Jamaica v. Neth. Antilles
Neth. Antilles v. Jamaica
Jamaica withdrew

Group 5

15. 4.72 Haiti 7, Puerto Rico 0
26. 9.72 Puerto 0, Haiti 5

Group 6

26.11.72 Surinam v. Trinidad
30.11.72 Trinidad v. Surinam
10.12.72 Surinam v. Antigua
3.12.72 Antigua v. Surinam
10.11.72 Trinidad 11, Antigua 1
19.11.72 Antigua 1, Trinidad 2

Group 2

8.10.72 Luxembourg 0, Italy 4
21.10.72 Switzerland 0, Italy 0
22.10.72 Luxembourg 2, Turkey 0
10.12.72 Turkey 3, Luxembourg 0
13. 1.73 Italy v. Turkey
25. 2.73 Turkey v. Italy
31. 3.73 Italy v. Luxembourg
8. 4.73 Luxembourg v. Switzerland
9. 5.73 Switzerland v. Turkey
26. 9.73 Switzerland v. Luxembourg
20.10.73 Italy v. Switzerland
18.11.73 Turkey v. Switzerland

Group 3

18. 5.72 Belgium 4, Iceland 0
22. 5.72 Iceland 0, Belgium 4 (In Belgium)
2. 8.72 Norway 4, Iceland 1
4.10.72 Norway 0, Belgium 2
1.11.72 Netherlands 9, Norway 0
19.11.72 Belgium 0 v. Netherlands 0
2. 8.73 Iceland v. Norway
22. 8.73 Netherlands v. Iceland
29. 8.73 Iceland v. Netherlands (In Netherlands)
12. 9.73 Norway v. Netherlands
31.10.73 Belgium v. Norway
18.11.73 Netherlands v. Belgium

EUROPE

Group 1

14.11.71 Malta 0, Hungary 2
30. 4.72 Austria 4, Malta 0
6. 5.72 Hungary 3, Malta 0
25. 5.72 Sweden 0, Hungary 0
10. 6.72 Austria 2, Sweden 0
15.10.72 Sweden 7, Malta 0
15.10.72 Austria 2, Hungary 2
25.11.72 Malta 0 v. Austria 2
29. 4.73 Hungary v. Austria
24. 5.73 Sweden v. Austria
13. 6.73 Hungary v. Sweden
11.11.73 Malta v. Sweden

Group 4

21. 6.72 Finland 1, Albania 0
20. 9.72 Finland 1, Rumania 1
7.10.72 East Germany 5, Finland 0
29.10.72 Rumania 2, Albania 0
8. 4.73 East Germany v. Albania
6. 5.73 Albania v. Rumania
27. 5.73 Rumania v. East Germany
6. 6.73 Finland v. East Germany
26. 9.73 East Germany v. Rumania
10.10.73 Albania v. Finland
14.10.73 Rumania v. Finland
3.11.73 Albania v. East Germany

Group 5

15.11.72 Wales 0 v. England 1
17.10.73 England v. Poland
6. 6.73 Poland v. England
24. 1.73 England v. Wales
26. 9.73 Poland v. Wales
28. 3.73 Wales v. Poland

Group 6

29. 3.72 Portugal 4, Cyprus 0
10. 5.72 Cyprus 0, Portugal 1
18.10.72 Bulgaria 3, Northern Ireland 0
19.11.72 Cyprus 0 v. Bulgaria 4
14. 2.73 Cyprus v. Northern Ireland
28. 3.73 Northern Ireland v. Portugal
2. 5.73 Bulgaria v. Portugal
9. 5.73 Northern Ireland v. Cyprus
26. 9.73 Northern Ireland v. Bulgaria
13.10.73 Portugal v. Bulgaria
14.11.73 Portugal v. Northern Ireland
18.11.73 Bulgaria v. Cyprus

Group 7

19.10.72 Spain 2, Yugoslavia 2
18.11.72 Yugoslavia 1 v. Greece 0
17. 1.73 Greece v. Spain
21. 2.73 Spain v. Greece
21.10.73 Yugoslavia v. Spain
19.12.73 Greece v. Yugoslavia

Group 8

18.10.72 Denmark 1, Scotland 4
15.11.72 Scotland 2 v. Denmark 0
2. 5.73 Denmark v. Czechoslovakia
6. 6.73 Czechoslovakia v. Denmark
26. 9.73 Scotland v. Czechoslovakia
17.10.73 Czechoslovakia v. Scotland

Group 9

13.10.72 France 1, USSR 0
18.10.72 Eire 1, USSR 2
15.11.72 Eire 2 v. France 1
13. 5.73 USSR v. Eire
19. 5.73 France v. Eire
26. 5.73 USSR v. France

SOUTH AMERICA

Group 1

21. 6.73 Colombia v. Ecuador
24. 6.73 Colombia v. Uruguay
28. 6.73 Ecuador v. Columbia
1. 7.73 Ecuador v. Uruguay
5. 7.73 Uruguay v. Colombia
8. 7.73 Uruguay v. Ecuador

Group 2

2. 9.73 Bolivia v. Paraguay
9. 9.73 Argentina v. Bolivia
16. 9.73 Paraguay v. Argentina
23. 9.73 Bolivia v. Argentina
30. 9.73 Paraguay v. Bolivia
7.10.73 Argentina v. Paraguay

Group 3

31. 3.73 Venezuela v. Peru
12. 4.73 Peru v. Venezuela
15. 4.73 Chile v. Venezuela
24. 4.73 Venezuela v. Chile
3. 5.73 Chile v. Peru
17. 5.73 Peru v. Chile

STEVE HEIGHWAY Eire (left) and SEMENOV Russia

WEST BROMWICH ALB.

Back row, left to right: George Wright (Asst. Manager), Bobby Gould, Hughie MacLean, Alan Merrick, Colin Suggett, George McVitie, Brian Whitehouse (Trainer). Centre: Jeff Astle, Roger Minton, Allan Glover, Graham Smith, Alistair Robertson, Alistair Brown, Ray Wilson. Front: Lyndon Hughes, Asa Hartford, John Wile, Don Howe (Manager), Tony Brown, Gordon Nisbet, Len Cantello.